

A black and white photograph of a dark, textured, hourglass-shaped object, possibly a piece of pottery or a sculpture, with a wide top and bottom and a narrow middle section. The object has a rough, mottled surface and is set against a light background.

Brehme leaps in the air in jubilation after scoring the goal.
(Reuter wirephoto)



Maradona screams in pain during second half action in World Cup final. (Reuter wirephoto)



Monzon, Dezotti ordered out

They had lost both the 1982 final to Italy and the 1986 showdown to Argentina.



West Germans wave their flags in jubilation

(Continued on Page 20)

ing to kill Israeli and American diplomats in Cairo.
(Kuna)

See Page 5

They said they expected the revival of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Istiqlal (independence) Party, one-time allies of the ruling Baath Party but banned 30 years ago. (Reuter) **See Page 11**

The first Iranian ship to dock in Kuwait since the war, arrived at Shuwaikh on Tuesday.

It claimed that Israel's artillery batteries based in its self-designated "security zone" in south Lebanon pounded the scene of the air attack after the planes had gone to block rescue operations and prevent the movement of ambulances.

of Israel's pursuit of a policy in the occupied territories that is in continuous violation of international law."

According to Al Khaleej's front-page story, the Arab diplomat disclosed that the message said, "the Soviet Union believes there are several means to achieve (Middle East) peace including the United Nations," the paper said.

The image makers
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Problems beset Cory government, tougher times ahead

MANILA, July 8, (AP): The acquittal of Imelda Marcos dealt a setback to embattled President Corason Aquino, but looming political battles and talks on the future of US bases promise rougher days ahead.

Problems have beset her administration from all sides.

During the past six weeks, communist rebels have killed two US servicemen and kidnapped a Peace Corps volunteer and a Japanese aid worker. Japan and the United States are the chief foreign supporters of the Aquino government.

Western European and American business groups complain that poor infrastructure and government policies are driving away international investors. Annual inflation is running in double digits, and the stock market is sluggish.

Aquino's formation of a new political movement has angered her supporters in Congress.

Now, the acquittal of Imelda on federal racketeering charges by a New York jury has invigorated the dwindling ranks of supporters of her late husband, ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

Surveys show Filipinos are losing faith not only in Aquino. Confidence is also dropping in all institutions she proudly cited as evidence she restored democracy after a 1986 uprising toppled Marcos' authoritarian regime.

Despite the problems, Amanda Doronila, editor of the Manila Chronicle, said he was impressed by Aquino's "steely" calm during an interview last week.

Many Filipinos are convinced that recent events have eroded Aquino's support in both this country's Congress and the United States.

Congressional supporters are angry Aquino's decision to organise a new political movement, Kabisig or "arm-in-arm," to promote social programmes.

Critics see the movement as a bid by the cabinet to bypass the legislature in the distribution of patronage. On Thursday, House Speaker Ramon Mitra, an Aquino stalwart, said the country did not need "another poorly conceived programme" and blamed the government's failures on "incompetent cabinet secretaries."

Rightly or wrongly, many Filipinos believe the US connection has been frayed.

Filipino nationalists rail constantly at "American intervention." But Washington's blessing — real or perceived — is seen as a strong political card, and government opponents take heart when they believe that support is waning.

Many Filipinos are convinced that US backing is ebbing, even though US jets helped put down a December coup that nearly toppled the government.

That view is based on several events that US officials insist are coincidental.

They include an offer by the military to fly dependents home after communist rebels killed two airmen near Clark Air Base on May 13. There were few takers, but Manila newspapers made banner headlines of the American "evacuation."

Last month, the United States withdrew all 261 Peace Corps members because of fears communist rebels planned to kill or kidnap volunteers.

Although one volunteer, Timothy Swanson, was reportedly kidnapped, commentators and government officials say Washington overreacted.

Presidential spokesman Tomas Gomez

Americans warned to stay out of Manila's red-light district

MANILA, July 8, (AP): The US embassy has warned Americans to avoid the city's nightclub district because of threats by communist rebels, an embassy spokesman said today.

The advisory was issued after a bar owner received a letter last week purportedly from the New People's Army threatening attacks on Americans in that part of the city, called Ermita, spokesman Stanley Schragar.

"We don't know whether the letter is valid or not," said Schragar. "But we have a policy of advising Americans every time we receive any indication of a threat."

Relatively few Americans frequent the red-light district, which includes the offices of several foreign companies including the

Associated Press.

The area is popular with Australians, West Germans, French and Scandinavians, whom Filipinos easily mistake for Americans. The US embassy estimates that between 120,000 and 140,000 Americans live in the Philippines, including 40,000 affiliated with the American military.

At least eight Americans are believed to have been slain by the New People's Army since April 1989. Suspected rebels on June 13 kidnapped Peace Corps volunteer Timothy Swanson, 26, of Wyoming, on the central island of Negros.

Late last month the United States suspended Peace Corps operations in the country because

of rebel threats. US officials learned of Swanson's abduction after trying to contact him about the suspension order.

On Friday, a statement purportedly from the Negros rebels said Swanson and Fumio Mizuno, a Japanese aid worker kidnapped in May, would be released this month. It said both were safe and had been cleared of spy charges.

If the statement is authentic, it would be the rebels' first public acknowledgement that they were holding Swanson and Mizuno. The statement warned that Peace Corps volunteers would no longer be permitted to work on Negros because some had been spying for the Philippine military.

said Washington has an "obligation" to help correct the unfair image of instability it had created.

In addition, the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines recently complained of 57 "anti-foreign investor" bills pending in Congress. It said the government appeared hostile to investment.

Imelda's acquittal was seen as another sign that Washington was no longer interested in accommodating Aquino.

Ambassador Nicholas Platt has repeatedly stated support for Aquino. However, Filipinos remember Washington gave similar assurances to Marcos before dumping him for

Aquino.

"All in barely a week, we saw how the Americans failed the popular expectations of the Aquino government," wrote columnist Ari Borjal in the Philippine Star, a pro-administration daily. "The general feeling is that the Americans are tightening the screws on the Aquino administration."

International mediation

Premadasa seeks world help for peace talks with Tigers

COLOMBO, July 8, (Agencies): President Ranasinghe Premadasa said today the international community should help start peace talks with separatist Tamil rebels.

Meanwhile, the violence continued. Today, the rebels set off mines under a military truck and an armoured car in north Sri Lanka, killing eight soldiers and wounding 16, officials said. The bombs exploded in a road near Vavuniya, 225 km (140 miles) north of Colombo.

Six charred bodies were found today in the eastern town of Batticaloa. Residents of the port town, 220 kms (135 miles) east of Colombo, said the victims were young Tamil men,

probably civilians.

Yesterday, government troops blew up a rebel ammunition dump and shot to death 21 militants guarding a maze of concrete bunkers, air-raid shelters and a training camp, a Defence Ministry statement said. The fighting took place in the northeastern Trincomalee district.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been fighting since June 11 for the control of northern and eastern districts of Sri Lanka, an island nation located off southern India. The rebels say they want an independent Tamil homeland within Sri Lanka, which is



It's love that I want, not power, says Imelda

Mahabharat's last act

Sundays will never be same

By Thomas Abraham Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 8: Sundays will be never the same again for a vast majority of Indians after today.

And for millions of television viewers in the country, there will never be quite a Sunday like July eight for a long time.

Today, the curtains were drawn on "Mahabharat," the Hindi television serial on the great Indian epic of the same name with the telecast of the 93rd and final episode.

During the nearly two years that it was shown on Doordarshan, the serial had virtually mesmerised the entire nation, with one estimate saying that it was watched by every third Indian. Besides, the serial raked in huge profits of around Rs 52 crores for Doordarshan in advertisement revenue.

For 93 weeks, every Sunday morning, the nation literally came to a halt for about an hour when the serial was telecast. Streets were deserted looking during that period, with almost everybody indoors and glued to television sets. Those who did not own TV sets crowded in other people's drawing rooms. Huge crowds

Benazir launches second offensive

ISLAMABAD, July 8, (Reuters): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto plans a second round of personal diplomacy to drum up support for Pakistan in its dispute with India over the Muslim uprising in Kashmir, the Foreign Ministry said today.

Kashmir will be the central issue during a five-day trip by Benazir to Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Algeria and Bahrain starting on Tuesday, the spokesman said.

Benazir visited eight Islamic countries in May and said all of them "supported Pakistan's call for a negotiated settlement" of the 43-year-old dispute over the divided territory.

Her second trip follows an Indian decision, announced on Thursday, to give its security forces in Kashmir sweeping new powers to shoot to kill and to demolish buildings used by militants seeking independence or union with Pakistan.

Efforts towards political settlement of the 12-year-old Afghan civil war and crises in the Middle East and the Gulf would also be high on Benazir's agenda, the spokesman said.

Pakistan plans to take its case on Kashmir to an Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Cairo later this month, but first wants to galvanize the support of nations that have seemed lukewarm.

Special envoys carrying letters from Benazir will go to several other Islamic countries, the spokesman added.

"There is a touch of desperation in the new (Indian) measures," the Pakistani spokesman said. "It can only vitiate the atmosphere."

Meanwhile, nine people were killed in weekend violence in Kashmir, officials and police sources said today.

Muslim militants ambushed police, killing a paramilitary policeman and two soldiers, and shot dead a Hindu man they accused of spying, the officials said.

Local police sources said a youth was found shot dead with a hand grenade hung from his neck in a busy street in old Srinagar. He died today during a 10-hour break in the curfew imposed on the state summer capital for much of the past six months.

The police sources said Indian paramilitary police shot dead three people and burned homes in townships west of Srinagar after they were attacked by militants yesterday, while security forces shot dead a civilian in Baramulla town.

Minority are fighting to create the theocratic state of Khalistan, or "land of the pure," in Punjab. About 10,000 people have been killed in the violence since 1984, when Indian troops attacked the Golden Temple of Amritsar, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, to drive out heavily armed extremists.

The attack on the Golden Temple led several months later to the assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

The attack on television viewers

predominantly Sinhalese.

A 13-month ceasefire broke down last month, and at least 2,109 combatants have been killed in the renewed fighting. Premadasa, speaking at a meeting of government officials, said outside help was needed to end the war.

"It is only with the involvement of the international community in a manner acceptable to us that the dialogue can recommence," Premadasa said at the meeting in Puttalam, 125 kms (80 miles) north of Colombo.

The government has maintained that talks can begin only if the Tamil Tigers lay down arms, and Premadasa seemed to be unwavering on that point, saying: "The destruction of lives and public property in the north and the east can be prevented only if the LTTE stops its military activities."

The discovery of the bodies in Batticaloa have panicked the town, which is controlled by government troops. Five similarly charred bodies were also found Friday and Saturday, said town residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Tamil rebels had held the town along with most of the eastern district. But they fled into nearby jungles as government troops advanced a few days after the fighting began again last month.

The separatist campaign started in 1983 with the militants claiming their community was discriminated by the Sinhalese in jobs, education and the use of the Sinhala language.

The ceasefire was negotiated in May 1989 while Indian peacekeeping troops were trying to put down the Tamil Tigers. The troops were sent to the island in July 1987 under the terms of an India-Sri Lanka accord that called for an arms surrender by Tamil militants in exchange for limited autonomy.

As Premadasa spoke, troops surrounded another large guerrilla jungle base in the east in a campaign to wipe out the last rebel resistance in Amparai district.

"This is their final base in Amparai district. We have them trapped there," a military source said by telephone from Amparai, 240 kms (150 miles) east of Colombo.

He said Tigers had retreated to their jungle base at Kanchikudichchi Aru, 55 kms (35 miles) southeast of Amparai town, after suffering heavy losses.

Other officials in Colombo said Tigers were advancing to meet the army column which was about five kms (three miles) from the base. "A big battle is looming," one official said.

Officials said more than 5,000 soldiers were involved in the eight-day-old operation and at least 1,000 rebels were believed entrenched in a maze of camps and well-fortified bunkers.

occurred today at a television shop near a

Sikh religious shrine in the town of Fatehgarh Shrihar, 20 miles (35 km) northeast of Amritsar, police said.

About 50 people had gathered to watch the final episode of the long-running Indian television serial "Mahabharat," a story about good and evil based on the Hindu religious text "Mahabharata."

The television serial had become immensely popular since it went on the air Oct 2, 1988, drawing viewers from all religious groups in the country. While the

'Shoes are not my weakness'

Interview with Imelda

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): Imelda Marcos, whose shoe collection became a world-wide symbol of extravagance, said many pairs were gifts and she had not known she had so many.

"Shoes are not even my weakness," the former Philippines first lady told London's Observer newspaper in an interview published today.

When Imelda and her late husband former president Ferdinand Marcos fled Manila in 1986, she left behind 508 gowns, 427 dresses, 71 pairs of sunglasses and 1,060 pairs of shoes.

Imelda, a former beauty queen who was acquitted of racketeering and fraud charges by a US court this month, said that as first lady she had a duty to encourage local industries and one way was to promote shoe factories.

"They liked me to open them. Then they sent me their shoes as a present. Many did not even fit me," said Imelda, who was described during her trial as "one of the world's greatest shoppers."

"Many boxes were never opened. I had no idea there were so many in the Malacanang palace," she told the Observer in what the paper said was the first exclusive interview with her since she was acquitted.

"Many of the paintings I bought were for our poor museums at home. As for jewels, I was blessed with a husband who was very generous to me," Imelda added.

Imelda, interviewed aboard a private DC-9 jet on her way to a celebratory party, denied she and her husband were corrupt.

She was accompanied by the

jet's owner, Saudi Arabian billionaire businessman Adnan Khashoggi, who was tried with her and also acquitted in New York last week.

The Philippines government of President Corason Aquino says Marcos and his cronies looted the national coffers of up to \$10 billion.

US customs officials have said they took jewellery worth between five and 10 million dollars and \$1.4 million in Philippine pesos to exile with them in Hawaii.

President Marcos, who died in exile last year, made a fortune by trading gold before he came to power, she told the Observer. He started with some treasure left in the Philippines at the end of World War II by fleeing Japanese forces, she said.

"You British and Americans have never been invaded, so you don't understand that bank accounts can become just paper. Jewels are cash in the hand," Marcos told the Observer.

Asked if she would re-enter Philippine politics, the president's widow said: "When democracy is restored to my country, then I will go back... a country needs a president, but it also needs a mother. That is where I could come in."

But she said she would not want to take part in public life. She said she wanted to bury her husband in the Philippines despite Aquino's refusal to allow her and her husband's embalmed body to return there.

Asked if she was still reaching for power, Imelda replied with a laugh: "It's love that I want, not power."

Beijing reopens fabled Silk Road

ISLAMABAD, July 8, (Reuters): China has reopened its fabled "Silk Road" tourist route into Pakistan after a two-month delay which Pakistani tour operators said was caused by a bloody Muslim revolt in China's far west.

Pakistani tourism officials said today that China opened the route, which crosses into Pakistan from China's Xinjiang region through the 4,900 metre (16,000 foot) Khunjerab Pass, about July 1, two months later than usual.

"The pass has been opened and tourists are moving through it," said a senior official in the Pakistani government's tourism division.

Chinese diplomats in Islamabad said the route had been closed because of disturbances in Xinjiang caused by "criminals". But peace had now been restored.

"Everything is peaceful there now," said one diplomat.

Pakistani tourism operators said the real reason the road was not opened was rioting among Muslim separatists living around the Silk Road town of Kashgar, about 250 km (150 miles) north of the Khunjerab Pass.

About 50 people, mostly Muslims of China's Kirghiz minority, are said to have been killed in clashes with security forces near Kashgar in April, according to Western media accounts.

Chinese officials had earlier said the route would not open on May 1 as usual because of poor road conditions and avalanches.

The Khunjerab Pass, the world's highest road crossing, was opened to tourist traffic in 1986.

Last year, about 38,000 tourists, including more than 10,000 foreigners, crossed the pass during the six months it was open, according to Pakistani tourism officials.

An average of \$300,000 was exchanged at the border daily at the height of the tourist season last year, they said.

Tourism officials said they expected a fall of between 50 to 60 per cent in tourist traffic this year, which is bad news for the many small hotels and restaurants that have sprung up along the route.

"Foreign tour operators got a nasty jolt when they heard the pass was closed. They like to make their bookings in advance, so it is going to take time to build things up again," said Changlei Sultan, an official of state-run Pakistan Tours.

"We will see fewer foreigners, and local traffic will also be affected," he added.

The Khunjerab Pass will remain open until October 30 for tourist groups and until November 30 for individual travellers, he said.

Monsoon floods kill 74 in India, 8 in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, July 8, (AP): Heavy monsoon rains over the past week in western and northern India have killed at least 74 people and washed away hundreds of houses, news reports said today.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, eight were killed and about 500,000 people were either homeless or stranded because of floods.

Press Trust of India said air force helicopters were dropping food packets to marooned villagers in western Rajasthan state, where the rains caused the Jajori river to burst its banks.

At least 24 people were drowned in the state, the news agency said.

In Gujarat state, southwest of Rajasthan, at least 34 people died in flash floods. At least 16 people were killed in other parts of northern India, it said.

In Bangladesh, located on India's

eastern border, flash floods inundated rice paddies and washed away houses in large parts of southeastern districts.

The Bengali-language Dainik Bangla newspaper said at least five people were killed in rain-triggered landslides and boat accidents. At least 500,000 people were displaced, the Dhaka-based newspaper said.

A mudslide buried a house in southeast Bangladesh, killing its two occupants and bringing the death toll from floods in the area to eight, officials said today.

They said the two died yesterday in Chittagong, where six people had already been killed in floods that have also affected the north.

Flash floods set off by record rains killed or injured 300 people in Vietnam's northern province of Son La, the official Vietnam news agency reported.

Bingo Day 12

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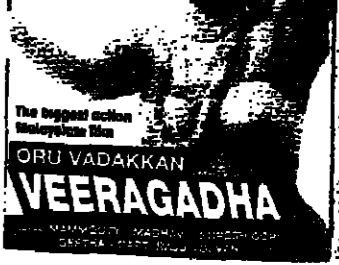
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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مركز العقارات"

Currently at Cinema Al-Jaleeb



VEERAPPAN

Duck the dart man: I'm going to go along holding me bum

NEW YORK, July 8, (Reuters): Police have sent undercover female officers out to the streets of New York to lure out "dart man" — a serial molester who roams New York City blowing tiny darts through a straw into the buttocks of women, at least 52 of them so far. The attacks, most of them in the busy midtown area of Manhattan, started last month and led police commissioner Lee

Brown to issue an appeal to the public to call police with any information after the latest victim was struck on Friday. "We need the eyes of the public," Brown said. But the police, the media and average New Yorkers seem undecided about whether "Dart man" is a budding psychopath or a nuisance prankster.

So far none of the two-inch (5 cm) — long pins — with little paper tails attached for better gliding capability and aim — has resulted in any injury. Some of the tiny weapons, recovered from hems and other parts of victims' clothing, have been analysed and show no trace of poison or other harmful substance. Almost all the victims have been young,

light-skinned women wearing business suits, skirts or dresses. But in a city used to violent crimes such as last year's brutal rape of a jogger in Central Park, there appears almost as much amusement as outrage with the attacker's antics. In yesterday's edition, the New York Times called dart man a "new force in fashion" who

had prompted women working in the midtown area to wear shorts, pants and other clothing instead of skirts. Several women said they felt forced to give up elegance to avoid becoming dart man's next target, the paper said. "Normally I don't wear shorts to work, but I know he attacks women in skirts," a 22-year-old receptionist, clad in Bermuda shorts, told

the newspaper. The paper quoted an Irish tourist as saying, "I am going to go along holding me bum." The article went so far as to suggest that fear of dart man had caused plump women to focus on their weight. Police have increased the number of uniformed and plainclothes officers in the midtown area, as well as sending out undercover cops.



Amelia Hardy (left) and Angus Johnston until recently profoundly deaf, can now hear sounds and recognise speech thanks to an Australian "Bionic Ear" party implanted in their skulls. Both are four years old. (Reuters wirephoto)

Freed from prison of silence

Bionic ear developed in Australia

SYDNEY, July 8, (Reuters): By the time she was 16 months old, Amelia Hardy was completely deaf. But thanks to a revolutionary artificial ear implanted in her skull, the playful four-year-old can once again begin to lead a normal life. "By 16 months she had lost all hearing," said Amelia's mother, Renee Hardy. "She could only say 10 words. Two years after the operation she has a vocabulary of 600 words."

"Now I can call her from 60 feet (20 metres). She is starting to communicate with her two-year-old sister. I am stunned by it really, every day now is a delight."

Amelia is one of 3,000 deaf people around the world who have been slowly led out of their prisons of silence by the bionic ear, developed in Australia in 1985.

Soon, a quarter of a million deaf Americans will get the chance to have the Cochlear implant, as it is officially known, following an approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Cochlear Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Pacific Dunlop, said the FDA approval to implant the ear into children over two years old was an important breakthrough for the company and would bring hearing to thousands of disadvantaged children.

L'Esperance in dire straits

11 kids too many

DAVISBURG, Mich., July 8, (Reuters): Welcome to the L'Esperance home, where kids will be kids. And that's just the quintuplets, the nation's first test-tube set.

Besides the 2½-year-old quintuplets, Michele and Raymond L'Esperance (pronounced less-per-ance) have three sons from previous marriages and now are caring for three nieces at their home north of Detroit.

That's 11 kids, if you're counting.

It hasn't been easy. Food costs \$350 a week, the telephone was briefly cut off last month for non-payment, the couple worried their electricity was next and handed their limousine, the only vehicle that could carry all the kids, back to the finance company.

Raymond, 29, is a Macomb county jail guard, bringing in \$26,000 a year, his wife, 36, works at a shelter for battered women.

Recent publicity over the couple's tight finances upset the family, Mrs L'Esperance said. She says they can care for their children, but needed a foster-home license — and the increased state aid it would bring — to care for her sister's brood.

"Why take them from

family?" she said in an interview outside the family's two-story home.

Oakland county probate judge Barry Grant was angered at a hearing last week on the license requested five weeks ago.

He ordered the state department of social services to explain why it hasn't acted on the couple's request to waive rules that normally excluded a family with eight or more children from being a foster home.

Chuck Peller, a spokesman for the department, said the foster-home license decision was delayed because the family only recently filled out the paperwork.

As foster parents, the L'Esperances would receive about \$1,000 a month for their nieces, rather than \$295 in welfare they now get.

The L'Esperances told Grant that private donations will let them keep their nieces regardless of the government's decision. Outside court, they won't talk about money.

The couple apparently once expected that commercial endorsements would offset the sudden costs of Erica, Veronica, Danielle, Alexandria and Raymond Jr, born 10 weeks premature in January 1988.

Call to study the 'new science'

PENSACOLA, Florida, July 8, (UPI): The study of UFOs has been a taboo topic even among those who study the paranormal, but an astronomer told participants at a UFO symposium yesterday that a bigger effort must be made in the "new science."

"We are like aborigines, and a coke bottle falls out of the sky," said Brian O'Leary, an astronomer and author about worldwide UFO sightings. "We don't know what to make of it." He was referring to the plot of the movie "The Gods Must Be Crazy" in which a bottle thrown from a plane astounds the African Bushmen among whom it lands.

O'Leary, of Phoenix, Arizona, was among the speakers at the 21st annual mutual UFO network symposium being held in north-west Florida through Sunday. The event has attracted 700 people, from experts in the field to average people interested in flying saucers and extraterrestrials.

Pensacola was chosen for the symposium because of more than 200 purported UFO sightings in the area since 1987. The most infamous sighting was in November 1987 in nearby Gulf Breeze, when Ed Walters claimed he took pictures of UFOs outside his home.

The Gulf Breeze sightings are among the topics to be discussed at the symposium. Other topics range from an update on Alabama sightings to a discussion about religion and UFOs.

O'Leary said he has been interested in the study of the universe since he was a boy, and was a mainstream scientist until he had some psychic experiences, including a near-death incident.

He said the 19th century gave the world its model of the universe, a world where the atom was the smallest object and the universe has immutable laws. But Albert Einstein and others found reality was different.

Over the years other areas of science have opened up, including the study of mind over matter and the fields of parapsychology. But even experts in those fields shun UFOs.

"UFO research is the black sheep of the black sheep of science," said O'Leary, referring to researchers in the paranormal. "UFOs are a taboo subject."

"Our hope is that Cochlear implants will give deaf children the communication skills that can help them realise their education and career goals," Pacific Dunlop said in a statement.

The implant is actually a tiny receiver with 22 channels. The device which costs 15,000 dollar (\$11,900), lets wearers hear a broad spectrum of sounds and pitches.

The tiny receiver is implanted in the bone behind the ear, and electrodes are connected to the inner ear, or cochlea. An external, detachable microphone is then fitted and wired to a light, pocket-sized speech processor.

The device works by stimulating a person's auditory nerves in much the way a musician plays an instrument, mimicking sound and allows the deaf to understand speech.

It took professor Graeme Clark of Melbourne University, initially inspired by his father's losing struggle against deafness, 23 years of tinkering to perfect the ear.

Today he is director of a hearing research institute in Melbourne, and hopes to one day give deaf people "stereo" sound so they can better appreciate music and discern from which direction sounds originate.

"I'm absolutely delighted," he said by telephone. "I set out to do this crazy thing 23 years ago and now the most stringent regulatory body in the world says it works and it's safe."

He calls it a greatest advance in deaf teaching since French teachers developed sign language 200 years ago.

Cochlear Pty Ltd has 90 per cent of the world bionic ear market, and 80 per cent of the US market. Chief executive David Money estimates FDA approval will double his firm's revenue to 40 million dollars (\$32 million) a year.

"We've been cleared in West Germany and Britain. This will make it a little for clearance in Japan and the rest of the world," he said.

Judy Wimble, manager of a Sydney deafness rehabilitation centre, said the ear has revolutionised deaf teaching.

120 musicians Concert held on death strip

EAST BERLING, July 8, (Reuters): About 10,000 classical music lovers attended the first open-air concert on former no-man's-land along the Berlin Wall where border troops once shot at people trying to flee to the West.

American conductor Lorin Maazel directed 120 musicians and 280 singers from 13 East and West Berlin orchestras and choral groups in a televised performance of Gustav Mahler's second symphony last night.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

TRENTON, New Jersey: A car dealer must make good on an offer of a \$15,000 car to the winner of a hole-in-one golf contest, a New Jersey state appeals court has ruled. Rex P. Callicott thought he won the car at the 15th annual New York Institute of Food Technologists Incorporated Annual Golf and Tennis Contest on June 6, 1988.

The institute had an agreement with Garfield Chrysler-Plymouth Incorporated to sponsor the event, and sent out thousands of advertisements announcing the hole-in-one event, according to court papers.

A new Chrysler LeBaron, with a \$15,560 sticker price, was stationed on the ninth hole of the Edgewood Country Club that day. Callicott was given the keys to the car at that evening's awards banquet, but the dealer refused to give him title to the car, claiming the tee-off point on the hole was less than the distance marked on the course scorecard.

A trial court, however, said the assertion that the tee markers were too close was unsubstantiated, and the appellate division of state superior court agreed Thursday. (AP)

WESTON, West Virginia: A musically inclined 3-year-old boy who is losing his eyesight to cancer had his dream come true when the West Virginia make-a-wish foundation gave him a piano. Jeremy Sirbaugh received the piano Tuesday at his home in a ceremony attended by 30 friends and family members. The foundation grants the wishes of seriously ill children.

Since birth, the Weston boy has suffered from retinal blastoma, and the disease already has claimed one of his eyes, said his paediatrician, Dr. Jennie West. West said Jeremy has undergone radiation treatments and other medical care since he was 7 months old. The boy's disease is not fatal, but West predicts he will be totally blind within two months.

Jeremy's teachers have found him to be musically inclined. His mother Louise Sirbaugh, said she will find Jeremy a music teacher. (AP)

AIKEN, South Carolina: Soul singer James Brown could finish his sentence for aggravated assault at home, but has to complete necessary paperwork first, officials said.

Since the "godfather of soul" is within 1-1/2 years of parole eligibility, he needs a requirement for extended work release, during which he could live at home, said Francis X. Archibald, spokesman for the State Department of corrections.

The possible move would take at least one month, but Archibald said he doesn't know when the paperwork will be completed. (AP)

Brown, 57, a two-time Grammy award winner, has been at the Lower Savannah work release centre since April, but on a limited work-release programme.

Brown served concurrent six-year sentences in December 1988. He was convicted of failing to stop for police, aggravated assault and weapons violations after a two-state, high-speed chase. (AP)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: US and Soviet space travellers who had a historic rendezvous in space 15 years ago will return to the Kennedy Space Centre for a reunion July 26. Former astronaut Tom Stafford, 60, and Deke Slayton, 66, will rejoin cosmonauts Aleksey Leonov, 56, and Valery Kubasov, 55, to celebrate the only international joint manned space mission.

The third US participant in the 1975 flight, astronaut Vance Brand, 59, commander of the currently grounded Columbia Astro-1 mission, may participate if his schedule permits, said NASA spokesman Karl Kristofferson.

The Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft docked July 17, 1975, and during the next two days the crews visited each other's ships, shared meals and performed joint scientific experiments. (AP)

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas: US Vice President Dan Quayle nearly goes hungry on his trip outside of Washington, an aide said.

Quayle made a surprise stop Thursday at a grocery store in north Little Rock on his way for Little Rock Air Force Base. He visited with shoppers, Kroger employees, signed autographs and ate a doughnut from the store's bakery.

"Now we can make it through the day," Quayle said after downing a chocolate-covered doughnut while standing at the bakery counter.

The vice-president "gets a list of all the places along the route — restaurants, grocery stores and that sort of thing — then he usually goes over the list on the plane and decides where he wants to stop," said an aide, Mark Gree. (AP)

ROUEN, France: France's oldest man Henri Perignon, died on Monday at the age of 110, his family said.

Perignon died in the Normandy resort of Deauville, where he retired in 1934 at the age of 45 after working as a laundryman in nearby Caen.

He declared that his proudest achievement was working as chauffeur to Marshall Louis Hubert Lyautey, one of the country's best-known soldiers at the turn of the century.



Golden jubilee

The Prince of Wales attends the Airborne Forces Golden Jubilee weekend in Aldershot on Saturday. This is the Prince's first public appearance since his polo accident. (Reuters wirephoto)

Vatican assails right to die law

VATICAN CITY, July 8, (AP): The Vatican newspaper yesterday assailed legislation allowing the sick to appoint proxies to make health care decisions for them when they are no longer able to do so.

L'Osservatore Romano did not refer to any legislation by name, but clearly alluded to a "right-to-die" bill adopted earlier this month by the US State of New York.

Alliance The newspaper said the Roman Catholic Church "denounces the alliance that man makes today with death."

The New York legislation was passed after the US Supreme Court ruled that an irreversible coma could not be disconnected from life-support equipment because it was unclear what her wishes would have been.

Bill Mario Cuomo, Governor of New York State, has not yet signed the bill into law but is expected to do so.

The editorial said such bills were "simple acts of tragic stupidity."

"Abortion and euthanasia express the same idea. That human life belongs exclusively to man and that everyone is the exclusive owner of his life," the editorial said.

It said that only God had the right to terminate life. The newspaper also criticised officials who support such laws.

Brazil's top musician Cazuzu dies of Aids

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 8, (AP): Cazuzu, a top pop singer and composer in Brazil who emerged as a national symbol in the fight against Aids, died in his sleep yesterday after a four-year struggle with the disease. He was 32.

Cazuzu, who suffered from respiratory problems during his last three days, died in his parent's home in the beachfront neighbourhood of Ipanema.

"Fortunately, he died without pain, sleeping," his father, Joao Araujo, director of one of the largest record

companies in Brazil, said on television. Television footage showed hundreds of weeping fans crowding into Sao Joan Batista church in Rio's Botafogo neighbourhood where a wake was held.

Cazuzu's music underwent a transformation after doctors confirmed he had Aids in 1986. His songs gained a poetic quality, the lyrics focusing on his struggle to live.

His funeral was held yesterday at the Sao Joan Batista cemetery. He was survived by his parents.

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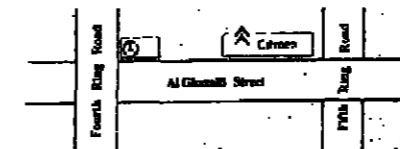
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Mexico reactor spells disaster

MEXICO CITY, July 8. (Reuters) Mexico, where wood is still the most common source of energy in the home, has taken a controversial leap towards modernisation with the start up of the country's first nuclear power plant.

In a move that critics say could spell disaster, the first of two reactors at the Laguna Verde plant on Mexico's Atlantic Coast has been churning out electricity at 100 per cent capacity since last week, according to government officials.

The plant is still in the testing stage, however, and neither the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency or Mexico's own National Commission on Nuclear Security and Safeguards have given it a final go ahead to start commercial operations.

"We'll be entering the final inspection period within a few days," Alberto Escofet, deputy secretary of Mexico's Ministry of Energy, Mines and State Industries said in an interview with Reuters.

Licence

"The tests are made by operating," he told Reuters. "We hope to have our operating licence by August."

The Laguna Verde plant, located 280 miles (450 kms) east of Mexico City, has been plagued by controversy, delays and cost overruns ever since its construction began in 1972.

Escofet said the plant — originally budgeted to cost \$28 million but with a final price tag of about \$3.5 billion — will help diversify Mexico's domestic energy and save oil, which is the country's leading source of export earnings.

He stressed "the high priority that has been given to all aspects of security" at the plant and said "what happened at Chernobyl cannot happen at Laguna Verde."

But critics of the plant, and its ageing General Electric BWR-5 Mark II reactors, say Laguna Verde is an accident waiting to happen that could be far more devastating than the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in Soviet Union.

There are problems in Laguna Verde, problems that have not been overcome. "Heberto Castillo," an architectural engineer and leader of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party said.

Danger

"The nuclear energy plant is a danger for the whole country," he added.

Escofet acknowledged that in tests over the past 18 months Laguna Verde had leaked radioactive gas into the surrounding countryside.

But he insisted that there had been "no emission of gas that was outside of (international) norms," however, and said the plant was being run under strict guidelines set out by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

But Mexican ecologists, who have monitored Laguna Verde closely, say the leaks are more dangerous than the government has been willing to admit.

The most recent leak, according to Mexico City ecologist Roberto Heller, occurred on June 23 and was considerable in terms of environmental impact to the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania.

"They didn't even know about it for 24 hours and all kinds of radioactive gas were escaping into the atmosphere," Heller told Reuters.

"On a scale of one to nine it was an eight, similar to Three Mile Island," Heller said.

Validity

"We seriously question the validity of the norms the government refers to when it talks about safety at Laguna Verde," added Jose Arias, a spokesman for the national pact of ecology groups which has publically opposed opening of the plant.

Heller said potential problems at the plant include its GE reactors, which were purchased by Mexico in the early 1970s and have been criticised by nuclear safety engineers who say their containment systems are faulty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Pilot killed in air show crash: A stunt plane driven by a space shuttle commander collided with another plane during a race at an air show Saturday, sending the second craft hurtling into a cornfield and killing its pilot.

The victim was identified as Henry W. Jones Jr., a retired fighter pilot from Newport News, Virginia.

The other plane, piloted by astronaut Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson, landed safely at the New Braunfels municipal airport, 25 miles (40 kilometres) northeast of San Antonio.

No one on the ground was injured, said city fire department spokesman Robert Reed. (AP)

Soviet MiGs dazzle crowd: An estimated 75,000 to 100,000 people jammed Battle Creek-Kalamazoo International Airport Saturday for America's first public display of the Soviet Union's top fighter jet.

"Everyone wants to be part of history and this is history in the making," said Linda Davis, general manager of the High on Kalamazoo Airshow.

Sharing top billing with the MIG-29/Fulcrum jets from the Soviet Union was the US Navy's Blue Angels precision demonstration squadron of F/A-18 Hornets. (UPI)

Insurer cites blood fraud: An insurance company is refusing to pay a \$2 million life insurance claim to the surviving wife of an AIDS victim, saying the victim used someone else's blood to qualify for coverage.

Lawyers for Massachusetts General Life Insurance Co. want a federal judge in Fort Lauderdale to throw out the claim by Anthony C. Fiorenti, who died of AIDS on Feb 28, 1989. Fiorenti, 40, tested positive for the HIV virus and was rejected by another insurance company less than a month before virus-free blood was used in his application to Massachusetts General. The lawyers say. (AP)

Show host Cullen dies: Bill Cullen, the dean of US Television Game Show Hosts, died of cancer Saturday. He was 70. His 35 network credits include such popular series as "To Tell the Truth" and "The Price is Right."

Cullen, who had known of his condition for months, died of complications from lung cancer at 5:25 pm (21:25 GMT) at his home in Los Angeles, said his manager, GEorge Spota. (AP)

Steger gets rousing welcome: Antarctic explorer Will Steger got a rousing welcome home Saturday from nearly all of the 4,289 residents of his hometown in the north woods of Minnesota state.

"Incredible," was Steger's only reaction after thousands showered him with confetti and good wishes during a parade through the tiny business district.

The 45-year-old explorer left Ely last July to serve as co-leader of the six-member international trans-Antarctica expedition, the longest unarmoured passage across the frozen continent. (AP)

Fireworks festival, 6 injured: A 10-inch (25-centimetre) rocket misfired during the finale of a fireworks festival Saturday night, igniting other fireworks in a pit area and injuring five workers and a policeman, police said in Bay City, Michigan.

At least two of the six men were admitted to a hospital with burns, but the extent of their injuries was not immediately known. The injured include a Michigan state police detective, and one of the workers was treated and released.

Spectators said at least one of the men was engulfed by flames. (AP)

Lutherans open hearing: With a hymn and a prayer, a Lutheran disciplinary panel opened hearings Saturday against two small churches that broke rules by ordaining three homosexuals as ministers.

A 12-member committee representing the 5.3 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church of America met with some 150 members of the San Francisco congregations of St Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church to weigh whether the two churches should be removed from the ELCA for disobeying Lutheran guidelines that bars ordination of homosexuals. (UPI)

NIH kills 3 monkeys: The US government's National Institutes of Health (NIH) has killed three of the celebrated spring monkeys that had become a potent symbol of the animal rights movement, a NIH spokeswoman said on Saturday.

NIH spokeswoman Anne Thomas said the three Simians — Big Boy, Augustus and Domitio — were euthanised on Friday in a laboratory in Louisiana. (Reuters)

Asia

Quake rocks Java: More than 100 people were injured and more than 10,000 buildings were damaged by an earthquake that rocked the Indonesian province of West Java Friday, officials said today.

The quake, which registered 5.2 on the Richter scale, struck several cities in the West Java province at 7:15 am, a Meteorological Institute official in Jakarta said.

Scientists pinpointed the epicentre in the West Java town of Purwakarta, about 55 miles (88 km) east of Jakarta.

No deaths were reported. But at least 103 people were injured, 14 of them seriously, some 110 miles (177 kms) east of Jakarta, an official said. (UPI)

US swimmer crosses strait: American David Yudin has become the first person to swim across Japan's treacherous Tsugaru Strait, Japanese media reported today. Yudin, a 18-year-old shipping company owner from California, made the 16.8 mile (27 kms) crossing Saturday from the northern tip of the central island of Honshu to the southern shore of Hokkaido, northernmost of Japan's four main islands.

The overnight swim through strong winds and high waves took seven hours, 25 minutes and 41 seconds, the daily Yomiuri reported.

Powerful currents that flow through the strait have thwarted earlier attempts to swim across it.



Anti-nuclear rally

Demonstrators hold placards showing malformed babies during an anti-nuclear rally in Moscow's Red Square. The placard reads "Chernobyl is our common pain and suffering."

(Reuters wirephoto)

Chance to show all

Nikos designs shock, delight

PARIS, July 8. (Reuters) Greek designer Nikos Apostolopoulos unveiled his latest underwear, scanty T-shirts and clinging body stockings drawing gasps of shock and delight from the Paris fashion world.

His muscular models were all men. Nikos, as his followers call him, paraded his titillating line in men's skin-tight white bikini pants and silver netting during the 1991 men's spring and summer fashion shows last week.

Nikos told Reuters he drew inspiration from the gods of his country's mythology when designing for men.

"Greece and the gods are always very close to me when I create," said the 38-year-old designer, who holds a doctorate in international law from the Sorbonne.

Shiny white lycra pants and scanty bodysuits outlined the rippling muscles of his brawny and tanned models as they struck poses worthy of a body-building fanatic.

"I look to express purity and strength. Man is pure, he doesn't need anything artificial," said Nikos, one of the few designers to stick to men's wear for two years before trying his hand at women's fashion.

Sleazy models in rough cotton drawstring trousers shed sheer jackets as they strolled languidly along the catwalk.

"I went to the Sinai desert and my inspiration came from the natural elements, the blue of the sky, the sand, the sea," said the soft-spoken, chain-smoking designer.

Transparent gauze T-shirts revealed bulging arms, and seashells dangling across bare chests stressed a primitive, tribal look.

Once off the beach, Nikos' men don colourful evening wear.



Party leader

Franz Schoenhuber, leader of West Germany's right-wing Republican Party raises his arms after being re-elected as party leader. (Reuters wirephoto)

the paper said.

Yudin himself abandoned an attempt last year when a typhoon approached, it said. (UPI)

Singapore completes subway: The world's newest subway was completed Friday, two years ahead of schedule.

Known as MRT, for mass rapid transit, the 67 km (42 miles) network was declared fully operational with the opening of Boon Lay station.

Ground was broken for the largest public works project in Singapore's history in October 1983. The first trains rolled in November 1987.

There are 42 stations, 27 of them above ground. Routes were planned so that more than half of the city-state's 2.7 million people live within a kilometre of the track and a third are within walking distance of the stations.



Haitians protest: Two former Duvalier government officials accused of torture and murder have returned to Haiti, drawing protests from trade unions and political parties who said on Saturday that their presence could disrupt planned national elections.

One of the nation's three transport workers unions said it would call for a general strike next week if the two men were not arrested.

Roger Lafontant, minister of the interior and national defence under ousted dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, returned to Haiti on Saturday from his home in the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

Lafontant, who was accused of ordering the torture of political prisoners, left Haiti in 1985 shortly before Duvalier was forced to end his family's 29-year rule. (Reuters)

Worker shot dead: A worker backing Sandinista labour strikes died Saturday from shooting injuries at a rally. Meanwhile, the government and strike leaders remained at odds in the six-day-old series of walkouts.

The slain man was identified as Marvin Alvarado Ponce, an 18-year-old musician. Family members said he was shot Friday by two people on a motorcycle when he was taking part in a street demonstration.

Police said they were investigating the case. He was shot at a rally held to generate support for the strikes, in which tens of thousands of workers have demanded more participation in economic policy making. (AP)

Cash discovered: The army found \$5 million in cash stuffed into three plastic garbage cans on a farm belonging to the brother of a former member of the Medellin cocaine cartel, officials said Saturday.

The cash was discovered on a farm owned by Daniel Rodriguez Gacha, brother of Jose Rodriguez Gacha, a cocaine trafficker killed in a police shoot out Dec 15, 1989.

Erig Gen Ramon Nieves, commander of the 13th brigade, said the money found Friday raises to \$42 million in cash and \$2 million in gold the amount confiscated from Jose Rodriguez Gacha's former operations. (UPI)

US help: The mayor of Medellin, headquarters of the world's most powerful cocaine cartel, appealed Saturday to the people of the United States to help his city end drug-related violence.

Mayor Omar Flores called on US churches, private companies, hospitals, local governments and other organisations to help ease Medellin's poverty, which he said provides a breeding ground for drug traffickers.

The United States and Colombia are both victims of the drug scourge and should fight it together, Flores said in an interview with the Associated Press. (AP)

Criticism protested: Cuba reacted with surprise and anger over UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's sharp criticism of the country's human rights record, the official Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported Saturday.

Prensa Latina, monitored in Mexico City, quoted a letter from Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca to Perez de Cuellar that said, "with profound surprise and irritation we learned of your unacceptable comments."

At a news conference Thursday in Geneva, Perez de Cuellar accused the government of President Fidel Castro of "violating human rights," lamenting that he could not go to Cuba to observe the situation personally. (UPI)

US plans raid on drug lords

Colombia, Bolivia, Peru involved

NEW YORK, July 8. (Reuters) The United States is drawing up plans for a hemispheric drug raid using the armies of three South American nations to strike a decisive blow against the cocaine cartel in the region. Newsweek magazine reported yesterday.

Newsweek, quoting briefing papers obtained from the US southern command military headquarters in Panama, said the attack would be co-ordinated by the southern command and would use the armies of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru to hit targets in their countries.

Although the troops would not be American, all the logistics, planning, training and support would be provided by the US military, Newsweek said.

"We wouldn't pull the trigger but we'd point the gun," Newsweek quoted a Pentagon analyst familiar with the southern command plan as saying.

Newsweek said, however, that due to likely opposition to the plan in the US Congress and reluctance of the countries involved to be seen as tools of the United States, a joint Latin American drug raid is unlikely to happen soon.

The plan is the brainchild of General Max Thurman, head of the southern command and military chief of the Panama invasion last December which ousted strongman General Manuel Noriega, Newsweek said.

A well-placed intelligence source said the Pentagon has plans to send American commandos to 'snatch' at least two

Colombian drug lords if US President George Bush gives the order.

According to the briefing documents, the attack would involve the massive use of force applied swiftly and simultaneously to the cartel's entire support structure.

Possible targets include the drug lords' homes, drug processing centres and clandestine airfields for smuggling.

Although US troops are slated to play only a background role in the strike, Thurman is prepared to use them if the need arises, the magazine said.

No date has been picked for the attack, but Newsweek said it had been told by a senior southern command officer that the intelligence necessary to pick targets would be ready as early as August.

Liberia rebels in high spirits

BUCHANAN, Liberia, July 8. (Reuters) Dressed in a wild assortment of clothing ranging from jazzy Californian shorts to wet suits, Liberia's rag-tag rebel army marches cheerfully on Monrovia to the beat of Reggae music.

Smashed cars and lorries litter the roadside, casualties of their reckless driving.

But although they are raggedly dressed and poorly trained, the fighters of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) appear to be better disciplined than government troops who have been running amok in the capital Monrovia, shooting civilians and looting shops and restaurants.

The rebels, armed mostly with Soviet-made AK-47 rifles and World War Two vintage machine-guns, obey their commanders' orders promptly and without question.

In the absence of proper uniforms, the badge of a commander is a clean shirt — soap like virtually every thing else in Liberia, is in short supply — and a walkie talkie radio.

Few of the two-way radios work but the commanders carry them with a flourish like military swagger sticks.

With rebel forces besieging the capital Monrovia, the last stronghold of President Samuel Doe, morale is high and victory seems just around the corner.

The rebels, who have overrun most of this West African country over the last six months, greet visiting journalists with broad smiles and the typically Liberian, rhythmic finger-clicking handshakes.

They take a pride in their strange dress. Some wear ear muffs in the sweltering tropical heat. Others sport nets in their hair. At least one sweated it out in the jacket of a diver's wetsuit.

Buchanan is the main outlet for Liberia's iron ore exports but all economic activity has stopped since the rebels unfamiliar with the port equipment and the rice distributed to local people.

The freighter, the Rizum Ester, is being laboriously unloaded by rebels unfamiliar with the port equipment and the rice distributed to local people.

Every family gets a 25-kg (55-pound) sack.

The trawler is also being used as a tender. People given chits by rebel leaders can help themselves to its frozen fish.

The shops on Buchanan's main street have been looted and burned — by government soldiers before they left, according to the rebels.



Rebels from the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) inspect the remains of Robertsfield International airport near Harbel on Thursday. The airport fell to rebel forces last month after heavy fighting with Liberian government forces (Reuters wirephoto)

Bad-writing competition

10,000 submit entries

SAN JOSE, California, July 8. (Reuters) The scary thing is not that Scott Rice runs a contest for the best example of bad writing, but that 10,000 people around the world submitted entries.

Since 1982 people who enjoy slaughtering the language have been entering the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, named after English writer Edward George Earle Bulwer-Lytton, who in his time was second in popularity only to another great Victorian, Charles Dickens.

Aspiring Bulwer-Lyttons from Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, France, West Germany, Britain, the United States and elsewhere send the best of their worst introductory sentences to Rice, a professor of English at San Jose State University.

The entries must be in the spirit of Bulwer-Lytton, whose 1830 novel "Paul Clifford" begins with this turgid paragraph:

"It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents — except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the house-tops and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness."

Bulwer-Lytton also penned the phrase "The pen is mightier than the sword."

Rice has published three volumes of past entries in his contest and titled them: "It was a dark and stormy night," "Son of it was a dark and stormy night," and "Bride of dark and stormy."

"I think people are attracted to the idea of being deliberately bad at something," said Rice, who was interviewed recently in a tiny office he shares with dictionaries, stylebooks and works by Ernest Hemingway, Samuel Johnson and, of course, Bulwer-Lytton.

"Most people understand that it's a put-on, but at the same time they realise it's a chance to make a statement about literacy," he said.

"When you give serious thought to what makes something bad, you're thinking in indirect ways about what makes things good."

Linda Vernon, a Californian who won a word processor as this year's overall winner, entered the contest as part of her work for a writing class. Her entry:

Dolores breezed along the surface of her life like a flat stone forever skipping along smooth water, rippling later sporadically but obvious to it consistently, until she finally lost momentum, sank and, due to an overdose of fluoride as a child which caused her to suffer from chronic apathy, doomed herself to lie forever on the floor of her life as useless as an appendix and as lonely as a five hundred-pound barbell in a steroid-free fitness centre."

"It's really fun, once you get hooked on it," said Vernon. "I have a friend whose hobby is to write Bulwer-Lytton entries. It's great, because you never have to finish anything."

Awards are also given in such categories as horror, science fiction, adventure, western and detective.

"We have thousands of people all over the world polishing their sentences and looking carefully at their reading for inspirations," said Rice.

Bad writing demonstrates that good writing is more a matter of constructing good sentences than using big words, said Rice, a point amply demonstrated by Bulwer-Lytton.

"He refers to a bedroom as a somnambular accommodation," Rice said. A pipe becomes a promethean tube, and a beer a nectarian beverage. "That kind of variation is bad writing."

Incident between Salvadorean and Honduran armed forces highlights disputes

TEGUCIGALPA, July 8. (Reuters) An incident between Honduran and Salvadorean armed forces in the Gulf of Fonseca has highlighted long-standing territorial disputes that once brought them to war and now appear to be stirring up new tensions.

El Salvador and Honduras, which share the Pacific Ocean gulf with Nicaragua, have been at odds for decades over control of the waterway, with each accusing the other of infringing on its sovereign waters.

The two countries also have argued over control of the Gulf's approximately 20 small islands, of

which El Salvador controls the majority.

The quarrel over borders and control of water and islands has been tied up in the International Court of Justice since 1985.

Salvadorean-Honduran tensions reached their height in 1969 during the so-called "soccer war" in which the two countries fought for about 100 hours over a border dispute.

In the confrontation on June 26, a Honduran ship was surrounded by at least four Salvadorean boats in Honduran waters in a "threatening manner," armed forces spokesman Juan Sierra told Reuters.

Sierra said the Honduran ship signalled for assistance and a brief radio conversation between Honduran and Salvadorean military leaders took place.

"The Salvadoreans retired to their territorial waters after the conversations and a (direct) confrontation was avoided," Sierra said.

Honduran radio HRN reported Hondurans sent in at least four US-made F-5 supersonic combat jets to the gulf following the incident, but the military has denied sending in reinforcements.

Honduras has 12 such jets, valued at \$8 million to

\$12 million each. The fighters were sold to the country by the United States under a long-term purchase agreement.

Honduran newspaper recently have reported growing tensions in the gulf area and editorials have called for Hondurans to beef up its forces in the area to counter possible Salvadorean offensives.

United Nations peacekeeping forces are patrolling the gulf to monitor arms shipments allegedly being sent from Nicaragua to leftist Salvadorean guerrillas through the gulf.

UK deadline for Irish talks

Protestant, Roman Catholic parties to meet soon

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, July 8, (AP): The top British official in Northern Ireland has set a late July deadline for Protestant and Roman Catholic parties to agree to negotiations on new political arrangements for the province.

Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke said yesterday that he hoped to announce an agreement before Parliament began its summer recess on July 26. Negotiations would likely begin in the fall.

"If I haven't made a statement by the time the House rose, I think eyebrows would be raised," Brooke told reporters in Redcastle, Ireland, where he met with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

The Irish government's role in the negotiations appears to be the main issue. Leaders of

Protestant Unionist parties insist that Dublin has no legitimate role in the province's affairs, while the Irish want to be involved early and often.

"We are dealing with positions that have been entrenched for centuries," Haughey said. "Therefore, to get this sort of process under way requires sensitive flexibility by us all."

Brooke and Haughey met in county Donegal for the official start of a cross-border social and economic study.

For the past six months, Brooke has been holding "talks about talks" with leaders of the two main Protestant parties — the Ulster Unionists and the Democratic Unionists — and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, supported by a majority of the province's

Roman Catholics.

Sinn Fein, the legal political wing of the Irish Republican Army, has been excluded from the discussions.

The talks would be aimed at restoring a measure of self-government in Northern Ireland, which has been directly ruled from London since 1972.

Brooke had hoped to announce plans for negotiations last week but told the House of Commons that some issues remained.

He has said he is aiming for an agreement acceptable to the political parties and the British and Irish governments.

Unionists are intent on replacing the Anglo-Irish agreement, signed in 1985, which guaranteed Dublin a say in Northern Ireland's affairs.

Iran takes decision

Hostage release imminent; scenario being worked out

BEIRUT, July 8, (AP): Iran has decided to use its influence with Shiite Muslim kidnappers to free one of 16 Western hostages they hold, and a scenario for the release is being worked out, a source close to the fundamentalist Hezbollah said today.

"The decision was taken in Tehran to release the hostage. The details on where, when and how are now under consideration in Lebanon," the source said, insisting that he not be identified further.

The source would not speculate on who would be released, or answer any other questions. "This is it for the moment. We have to wait for a communiqué (from the kidnappers)."

He spoke in Beirut just before Israeli warplanes struck a Hezbollah

base in South Lebanon in their 14th such attack on targets in Lebanon this year.

At least two people were killed and seven wounded in the raid on a position between the villages of Jarjou and Ein Bouswar, 2 to 3 miles (3.5 to 5 miles) north of Israel's self-designated security zone in south Lebanon.

It also was not clear if the hostage-holders would cancel the reported plan for a hostage release in retaliation for the raid.

Muslim fundamentalists accuse Western governments, especially the United States, of bias toward Israel and hold them responsible for its actions against the Arabs.

Iran signals new drive

Release of hostages

NICOSIA, July 8, (Reuters): Reports of the imminent release of a Western hostage in Lebanon signal a new drive by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to rid Iran of a burden which has tarnished its international image.

The hostage issue has dogged efforts by the pragmatic president to improve frosty relations with the West and break with a foreign policy shaped by a decade of revolutionary fervour and chaos.

The hostages have cast a shadow over plans by Iran to enlist foreign investment and expertise to rebuild the country after eight years of war with Iraq.

An army emasculated by lack of Western equipment and idle factories also testify to battered relations with the West.

Washington has said freedom for six Americans held in Lebanon is the key to normal relations with Tehran.

The Iranian news agency Irna said yesterday one of the Western hostages in Lebanon, probably a European, may be released soon.

Iranian officials said today they were checking the Irna report. One senior official in Tehran, contacted by Reuters, said: "Freedom for the Western hostages is one of the main objectives of our foreign policy."

There are 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, including nine Europeans. Seven of them are thought to be in the hands of a network of pro-

Iranian groups acting under the umbrella of Hezbollah.

Rafsanjani has sought to end the hostage issue once and for all but each time faced formidable problems at home and abroad.

He played a key role in releasing Americans Robert Polhill and Frank Reed in April. But his campaign ran out of steam after the United States declined to press Israel to release 350 Muslim prisoners held in the Jewish state and by pro-Israeli militiamen in southern Lebanon.

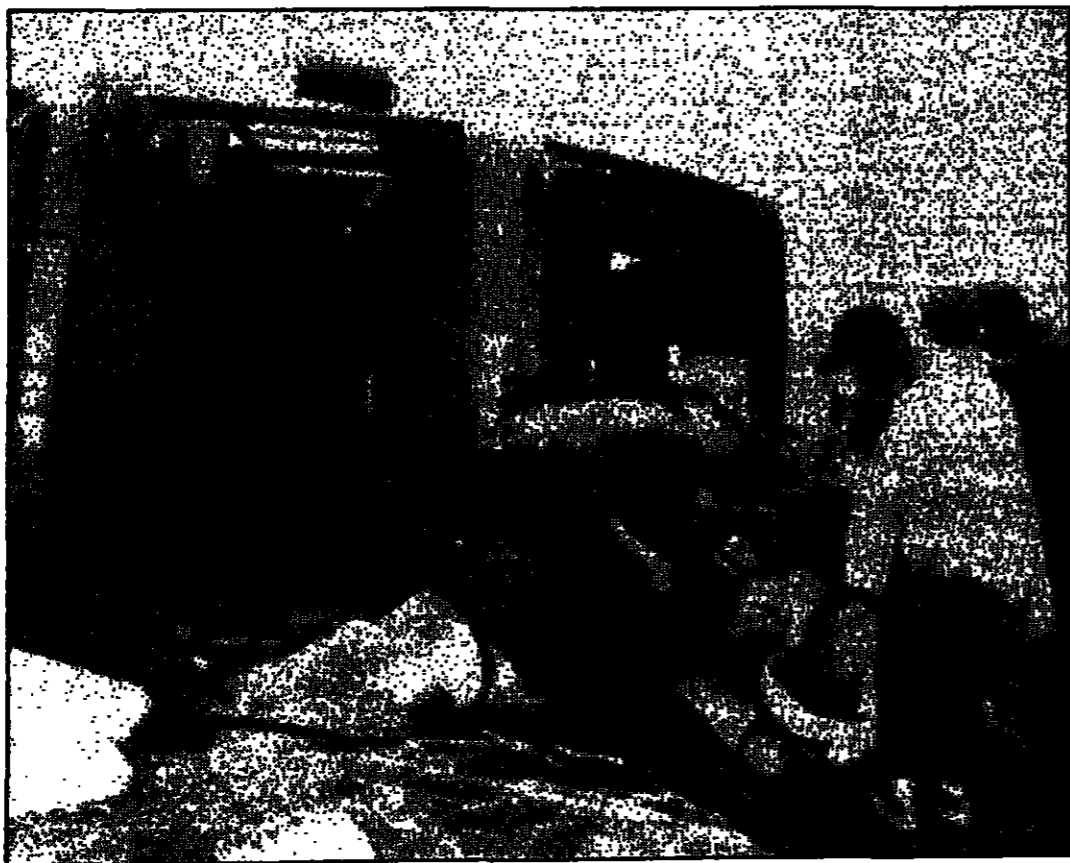
Israel said it would trade the prisoners, mostly from the Hezbollah movement, for Israelis missing in Lebanon.

Spurred on by the Israeli refusal, radical opponents of Rafsanjani complained his efforts were in vain, forcing the president to abandon his campaign.

But an earthquake which killed about 40,000 people in June was a catalyst in changing foreign policy. It gave him a rare opportunity to accept aid from foreign donors, including such enemies as the United States and Iraq.

He hinted last week at a possible shift in foreign policy, saying relief supplies were bound to affect Iran's attitude towards the outside world.

Iranian sources said Rafsanjani was now keen on showing Tehran's gratitude by rewarding the West with the freedom of some of the hostages soon.



Coach overturns

Rescuers take care of one of the 39 British tourists who were hurt when a coach travelling from Scotland to Spain overturned on a French motorway yesterday, near the southeast town of Macon. A police official said the coach carrying 66 passengers swerved off the A6 motorway. (Reuters wirephoto)

Atomic saboteurs hold first reunion

RJUKAN, Norway, July 8, (AP): Eight of the saboteurs who blew up a key factory in Nazi Germany's atomic bomb project held their first reunion, reliving one of World War II's most daring secret exploits.

The eight Norwegians, all in their 70s and retired, led several thousand people who walked yesterday along a new "saboteurs' trail," an eight kilometre (five miles) path that follows the route they used to reach the German-operated plant in Telemark county.

"We didn't recognise the importance of what we did until the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan," said Joachim Roenneberg, recalling the night of Feb 28, 1943, when the 10 men blew up the Nazi heavy water plant near Rjukan, 200 km (125 miles) northwest of Oslo.

The allies, fearing Germany would build an atomic bomb before the West, had

ordered the plant destroyed at any cost. After an aircraft carrying British commandos crashed in occupied Norway, it was up to the Norwegians.

On Saturday, the eight saboteurs attending the ceremony stood at attention for the Norwegian national anthem. One of the 10 has died and another was unable to attend.

Women and children handed them flowers and many in the crowd cried. Volunteers in Rjukan, a town of 4,500, built the hiking trail.

The 10 Norwegians have been celebrated in books and movies, including the American film production, "Heroes of Telemark."

Roenneberg, who led the expedition at 23 years old, said: "It was not like a military operation. It was more like a group of friends who set out to do something

together."

The mostly British-trained saboteurs parachuted into Norway and, weeks later, approached Rjukan. New York-born Knut Haukelid said they slid down a mountain through wet snow and waited for darkness.

One man remained behind as a radio operator. Five stayed near a German barracks, ready to fight if the German soldiers were alerted.

Four saboteurs found an unguarded railroad line leading to the plant and crawled through a pipe into its basement. They met only a Norwegian technician, who did not resist.

Roenneberg said they set explosives with fuses that gave them 30 seconds to escape. The saboteurs made their way back into the mountains and some skied 400 kms (250 miles) in 14 days to Sweden before heading back to England.



A pack of fighting bulls charge through the streets of Pamplona as local youths and daring foreigners try their luck in the running of the bulls on the first day of the annual festival. Three people were seriously gored and 32 slightly injured yesterday in the second running of the bulls. (Reuters wirephoto)

US, Greece sign pact

\$1 billion 'free package' to sweeten the bases deal

ATHENS, July 8, (Reuters): The United States and Greece signed a new military bases agreement today and Washington threw in 62 warplanes and four naval destroyers to sweeten the deal.

Greece's conservative government, in power for the first time since 1981, took just three months to hammer out the pact which sharply reduces the number of US military personnel and bases in Greece.

Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras and American Ambassador Michael Sotirhos signed the eight-year accord. US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was also present.

Makri naval communications station east of Athens will close down this year.

Both sides wanted the installations shut. The nearly 4,000 US military personnel in Greece will also be reduced by half.

Hundreds of police surrounded the central Athens Foreign Ministry, a military helicopter hovered overhead and American security guards crowded the hall for the signing ceremony.

It was a reminder of the mass demonstrations and string of killings of US diplomats and soldiers since the mid-1970's by left-wing groups opposed to the American presence in Greece.

The pact goes into force after approval by the 300-seat Greek Parliament, where conservatives hold a slim 151-seat absolute majority. The US Senate must be informed but its approval is not required.

The agreement ended years of tough negotiations and bitter disputes over the US military presence, which began during the 1946-49 civil war and was formalised in a 1953 military co-operation agreement.

Talks on replacing a five-year agreement which expired in 1988 were broken off last year by the then-ruling socialist government. The Americans had until the end of this year to leave unless a new accord was signed.

But the anti-American furor which followed the 1967-74 military junta in Greece had faded and there were no protests against Greece's visit.

Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis reopened talks after winning national elections in April and negotiators initiated an accord just before the Greek leader visited President George Bush in Washington in June.

"We are beginning a new policy towards the United States," Samaras told reporters. "We are leaving behind the rhetoric of urging a break."

The comment was aimed at former Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who ruled from 1981 until 1989, and often used threats to close the bases to whip up popular support.

In a letter accompanying the agreement, the United States pledged to seek \$345 million in free military aid for Greece next year, about the same level as this year.

It said 56 F-4E and A-7 fighter-bomber aircraft and six P-3A aircraft for hunting submarines would be given free to Greece, plus four guided missile destroyers. Samaras said the 'free package' was worth \$1 billion.

Under the agreement two US bases will close. The Hellenikon air force base sharing Athens airport will be shut by June 1991 and the Nea

Walesa warns Poles

'Democracy still in danger'

WARSAW, July 8, (Reuters): Lech Walesa said today Poland still lacked a political blueprint for the fragile democracy that replaced communism, and told Solidarity members of Parliament: "One gust could sweep you all away."

Earlier, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Walesa — the Solidarity union leader who aspires to the presidency — agreed in closed-door talks to "work together for Poland" but left doubt as to whether they had settled their differences.

next stage," Walesa said. "The system we have created today is growing similar to the former system. That's how society perceives it."

Walesa had four hours of talks with Mazowiecki yesterday in a Warsaw convent. The aim was to resolve tensions which have split the Solidarity movement and turned the two former allies into political rivals. Sources on opposite sides have conflicting verdicts on the meeting between the country's two most powerful politicians, which was mediated by Catholic bishops.

One described the atmosphere as good, but another said the two men did little more than paper over cracks.

"Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Lech Walesa agreed they would work further together for the good of the country and the further building of democracy," said a bland communiqué carried by the official PAP news agency.

The two men worked closely in Solidarity for 10 years in opposition to the communists. When the movement took power last year Walesa decided to remain outside government and personally nominated Mazowiecki as premier.

Since then, the former allies have become political rivals and the tensions between them have split the movement.

Walesa last May declared "war at the top" on Mazowiecki's government, accusing it of trying to set up a new political monopoly to replace communism.

Mazowiecki supporters hit back by calling Walesa a despot and accusing him of naked political ambition in proposing himself for the presidency, now held by former Communist Party chief General Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The conflict has thrown Poland into political ferment at a time when its economic situation is still precarious and discontent with unpopular austerity measures is growing.



Walesa

Berlin Wall in Manchester

Old days live on

MANCHESTER, England, July 8, (AP): Nostalgic for Checkpoint Charlie? Miss those snarling East German border guards? Cold war junkies, despair not: the old days live on in Manchester. The real Berlin Wall may be vanishing, but its English replica, complete with mock-nasty guards, stands firm for the tourists at Granada TV studios in the northwest city.

When it went up two years ago to honour Granada's spy series "Game Set and Match," based on the Len Deighton trilogy, its architects never dreamed it would soon be old hat.

"We're keeping it as a piece of history," said Marina Efsthio, public relations officer for the 90-minute tour of Granada's sets, which has attracted one million visitors since it opened for business July 20, 1988.

The graffiti-smeared wall comes into view between Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street and Coronation Street of British soap opera fame. The tram carrying 40 tourists stops, and the atmosphere becomes bleak.

Two men in Berlin border guard uniforms board the upper level of the tram. One of them, tall and blond, demands a reporter's briefcase and admonishes him for smiling.

"Don't laugh," he barks in German-accented English while his companion, short and dark, glowers at his site. "It will give you wrinkles in later life."

Returning the briefcase, the two move on, and the tour resumes on foot.

Granada, which charges £6.95 (\$12.20) for the tour, has adapted the wall experience to keep pace with history. When the cold war was real, there were guard dogs and tourists got frisked. Now such niceties are reserved for corporate clients who specially request them.

"We used to pick up dad and take him off the tram and children would say, 'Don't take my daddy away.' We would threaten to lock people up," recalled Roy Stonehouse, the Yorkshireman who designed the tour.

Stonehouse said he tried to acknowledge the geopolitical change by carving a hole in his wall after the real one opened last November.

"It wasn't very successful," he said. "It looked as if the mice had been at it."

"Game Set and Match," starring Ian Holm, was a 13-hour series filmed partly at the real Berlin Wall and partly on a studio set. It was the first time permission was given to film on location at Checkpoint Charlie.

The wall, which covers a 2,500-square-foot (225-square metre) area, serves a practical purpose as well, screening off the adjacent science and industry museum whose visitors would otherwise be able to gaze down at the Granada tour for free.

That unpleasant border guard turned out in an interview in the replica Checkpoint Charlie hut to be Gareth Williams, 20, an amiable college student.

"We've had one or two comments like, 'it doesn't exist anymore', but there's nothing you can say to that," he remarked during a break between tramloads of tourists.



A little of this ...

Students (left) from Beijing University, dressed in army uniforms, study English at Shijiazhuang Military Academy. At right, People's Liberation



...A little of that

Army soldiers demonstrate hand-to-hand combat techniques to visiting foreign journalists. The academy is training the entire freshman class of

Beijing University in military discipline to prevent further political movements among students. (Reuters wirephoto)

More students to undergo army training

China plans as part of crackdown on dissent

SHIJIAZHUANG, China, July 8, (Reuters): China plans to double the number of students it sends to a military academy here for training to eradicate anti-communist tendencies, part of its crackdown on dissent since the crushing of unrest last year.

The People's Daily said today 1,600 would-be freshmen at Beijing University — a hotbed of revolt during 1989's democracy protests — would be dispatched to this southern city this year before being allowed to take up college places.

The first batch of 728 students were sent to the Shijiazhuang Army academy last autumn after troops put down protests with heavy loss of life. They leave on July 18 after a year of communist doctrine, square-

bashing and spartan discipline.

"This year has toughened the students' confidence in socialism," Major-General Xiang Xu, political commissar of the academy more than 200 km (125 miles) south of Beijing, told foreign reporters.

"Time spent sharpening the axe is saved when cutting wood," he said, defending the value of army training for young people who mostly have no military ambitions.

One student in an English language class at the academy had a different view. "My studies have suffered because of too much military training," the student said.

A day of riots

Kenyan troops disperse democracy rally

NAIROBI, July 8, (Agencies): A prominent human rights lawyer under threat of arrest for his criticism of Kenya's one-party government took refuge at the US embassy, a source said today.

Gibson Kamau Kuria, a former detainee who in 1988 won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, had gone into hiding late Thursday following a wave of arrests against advocates of a multi-party democracy.

It was unclear when Kuria, 43, moved into the mission in downtown Nairobi. But the source, who spoke on condition he not be identified, confirmed the lawyer was there.

By late afternoon, at least three trucks carrying scores of heavily armed troops had moved into the area. Riot police bearing clubs were seen in surrounding neighbourhoods.

US officials, including Ambassador Smith Hempstone, refused comment on the status of Kuria or Paul Muite, another lawyer critical of the government who went into hiding after last week's arrests of Kenya's best-known proponents of pluralism.

Muite's wife and associates said the lawyer was safe, but would not reveal his whereabouts. He was not believed to be in the embassy.

Philip Kilonzo, Kenya's national police chief, said authorities were trying to find the two lawyers.

"We are still hunting for them up to now. We have not given up our efforts to get them," he was quoted as saying in today's editions of the ruling party's English-language newspaper the Kenya Times.

Kuria's bid for asylum follows a US State Department protest against last week's arrests. In a statement issued from the US embassy in Nairobi, the administration of President George Bush expressed "concern and interest" in the detentions and said it was distressed over the situation.

Previous US suggestions that Kenya consider political pluralism have angered the government, which at one point threatened to curtail Hempstone's movement.

President Daniel Arap Moi has flatly rejected any move toward multiple parties, and cabinet ministers have called those backing such moves tribalists and subversives.

Moi repeatedly has threatened arrests, vowing to hunt down political pluralists "like rats." He claims the existence of about 40 tribes in Kenya would invite tribal-based parties, leading to ethnic divisions and even tribal warfare.

On Sunday, the Kenya Times responded to the State Department comments in an editorial titled "Shut up, Mr Ambassador."

In it, Hempstone was described as the "epitome of developed-world conceit of the vilest kind" and threatened expulsion.

He "will have only himself to blame should Kenya find it necessary to declare him a persona non grata," it said.

"He should remember that he is a diplomat, a person sent by his government to promote good-will between states, and not an international political terrorist," said the editorial.

Hempstone seemed unruffled by the editorial, which he described in a telephone interview as "an outrageous piece of work."

The United States is a major donor to Kenya, whose economy is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Last year Washington gave \$61 million in economic aid and \$15 million in military assistance, according to a study prepared by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank based in Washington.



Daniel Arap Moi



A man lies unconscious as anti-government protesters flee from police during a demonstration in Nairobi on Saturday. The demonstrators called for the release of arrested former cabinet ministers who have led a campaign to scrap Kenya's one-party political system. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boesak in extra-marital scandal

Marriage over wife

JOHANNESBURG, July 8, (Reuters): The wife of coloured (mixed race) anti-apartheid cleric Allan Boesak said their marriage was over because he was having an affair with the white niece of a former South African government minister.

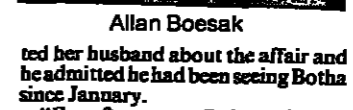
"This time he has gone too far. I cannot go through this again. Our marriage is over," Dorothy Boesak told the Sunday Times.

Boesak, 44, had an affair with his secretary five years ago, but although he admitted to it after repeated denials, he emerged largely unscathed because the affair was exposed by security police who bugged their movements and supplied the tapes to newspapers.

"Because of claims that it was a police smear Allan got off very lightly and I forgave him. But this time he has gone too far," Mrs Boesak said. Newspapers reported that Boesak, a father of four, had told his lawyer and staff that he was having an affair with Botha, 30, and that he intended divorcing his wife of 21 years.

The papers said Botha and Boesak were seen at a Cape Town Seafront Hotel where they had spent four days together. Reporters said they were tipped off by a woman who said she was a friend of the Boesaks.

Mrs Boesak said she had confronted



Allan Boesak

her husband about the affair and he admitted he had been seeing Botha since January.

"I've often counselled people with problems like this. Unfortunately the same thing has happened to me. But I've got to be strong, not only for my sake, but for my children as well," she said.

Botha is married to a television news presenter and they have started divorce proceedings.

Told of the disclosures while on a visit to Durban, Archbishop Tutu and his entourage bowed their heads in prayer, the Sunday Star said.

Boesak and Botha could not be reached for comment, but his lawyer, Esau Moosa, said a statement would be issued later.

436 seek 123 seats in Chad election

N'DJAMENA, Chad, July 8, (AP): This war-scarred nation today held its first contested election since independence in 1960, offering voters a choice of 436 pro-government candidates seeking 123 seats in a new national assembly.

Opposition parties remain banned in Chad, and virtually all the candidates belonged to the ruling National Union for Independence and the Revolution.

Yet the campaign was lively and hard-fought, with candidates touring city streets in loud-speaker-equipped vehicles and wooing voters with offers of low-price beer or free sugar.

The 4,000 polling stations spread across the vast, landlocked nation opened at 6 am (0500 GMT) and were scheduled to close at midnight (2300 GMT). Final results were not expected until later in the week.

The elections are the product of constitutional reforms approved by 99 per cent of the electorate on Dec 10 in a referendum that also gave President Hissene Habre another seven-year term.

Habre voted about 9 am in his N'Djamena neighbourhood, then told journalists that Chad was entering "a phase of democratisation."

"I hope these processes will be seen through to completion," he said.

Spectators' death termed 'accident'

NAIROBI, July 8, (AP): Somalia authorities described as "chance accident" the deaths of three people killed when security forces opened fire to quell a disturbance at a soccer match.

Three people were killed and three injured Friday at the stadium in Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu when security forces "fired high into the air to ensure peace and stability," the Ministry of Labour, Sports and Social Affairs said.

The ministry did not give details of the disturbance, but said it was the result of overcrowding.

Rebels launch counter-attack

94 Cambodia troops killed

BANGKOK, July 8, (UPI): US-backed resistance forces launched a counter-attack against troops of the Vietnamese-backed government deep inside Cambodia, killing more than 90 soldiers, resistance radio reported today.

Earlier, resistance leader Son Sann called for a "technical meeting" of the four battling factions in Cambodia to try to remove some of the obstacles to peace remaining after 11 years of conflict.

The radio "Voice of the Khmer" said resistance forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk launched a fierce counter-attack against government troops in Kompong Thom, about 80 miles (130 km) north of Phnom Penh.

It said 94 government soldiers were killed and 40 taken prisoner in the fighting last week.

Government shelling killed 15 civilians, it said.

The government brought in 3,500 soldiers from nine provinces and 1,200 Vietnamese soldiers to counter a resistance thrust into Kompong Thom late last month, the radio said.

Vietnam has denied repeated resistance reports of Vietnamese soldiers in battle, insisting that all its combat forces withdrew from Cambodia last September, although advisors, technicians and intelligence officers have remained.



Prince Sihanouk

The radio said the large government force was assembled to attack and mop up Cambodian resistance groups which are controlling a number of major district seats in Kompong Thom province.

It said resistance forces were still actively operating around the provincial seat, which fell into the resistance hands for four hours last month.

The government forces began a large-scale drive on July 2, but it was stalled by the counter-attack three days later, the radio said.

Sihanouk's forces receive diplomatic backing and "non-lethal" aid from the United States as well as military help from Thailand, Singapore and China.

Chinese man crosses North Korea to defect to Seoul

First across Korean border

SEOUL, July 8, (AP): A Chinese man sneaked into and across North Korea and defected to South Korea today across the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas, the Defence Ministry said.

It was the first known Chinese defection across the Korean border, although a number of Koreans have slipped across to defect. Several Chinese have defected to South Korea by air or sea.

Ministry officials said Chai Zheng, 27, surrendered himself to a South Korean outpost inside the southern sector of the four-kilometre (2.5-mile) wide demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas at about 1 am (1600 GMT) Saturday.

An initial investigation showed that Chai, from Hebei province, near Beijing, had slipped across the Yalu river boundary between China and North Korea and travelled some 320 kilometres (200 miles) south by train and on foot to reach the South Korean border, they added.

He approached a South Korean sentry post under cover of darkness and shouted his intention to defect, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Authorities were investigating the motive for his defection and how he could travel across North Korea undetected, the officials said.

China in quest of 'truth' of Marxism

BEIJING, July 8, (UPI): China has dismissed domestic concerns about the global decline of socialism and Beijing's crushing of last year's democracy movement, saying today the nation can survive only through renewed study of "the truth of Marxism."

China's leading newspaper, the state-run People's Daily, urged government and Communist Party officials to address broad doubts about Marxism by deepening their own study of socialist theory.

The front page editorial acknowledged that many nations last year abandoned socialism in favour of capitalism, but said that was all the more reason for deeper study of Marxism and the socialist writings of the late Mao Tse-tung and senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

"The key questions are: Does a socialist system have advantages and vitality? Will the red flag of socialism forever flutter over the great Chinese land?" the unsigned editorial said.

"To correctly understand these questions and solve them, one must study and grasp the theory of scientific socialism," the newspaper concluded. "In the final analysis, the truth of Marxism can answer and explain any questions of reality."

The essay did not name countries that had cast off socialism but, by its timing, it could be seen as a commentary on Marxism's current crises in Albania and in Moscow, where deep divisions threaten to rend the Soviet Communist Party.

The Chinese media has cautiously avoided reporting on the deteriorating situation in Albania, where thousands of citizens have poured into foreign embassies — including China's — to demand safe passage to the West and protection from government security forces.

A brief dispatch from the official Xinhua news agency said the Albanians at China's embassy departed last week under unspecified circumstances, but gave few details of the crisis engulfing the hard-line Stalinist regime that once enjoyed close ties with Beijing.

China's leaders are known to be nervous about socialism's global decline, and tightened state security after violent demonstrations in Romania last December toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was swiftly executed.

Beijing University freshmen were the only students penalised with the year of forced military training after the protests that the army crushed in June 1989.

Foreign diplomats and undergraduates at the university say they were singled out for punishment because of the leading role the university played in the unrest.

Authorities at the academy said the students spent 74 per cent of their time on military or political studies, which take priority over normal classes.

The young people, 259 of whom are women, follow a spartan regime, living 12 to a bunk-bedded room in which the only visible personal effects are uniforms and military caps neatly arranged on spotless mattresses.

At lunchtime a phalanx of the uniformed students, mostly in their late teens, marched to a canteen yelling martial anthems. Women wore their hair a few inches above the shoulder but male students all sported pudding-bowl crew-cuts.

"One thing I am going to do when I leave is grow my hair," said one young woman.

Authorities are heralding the students' sojourn as a triumph. Xiang said he liked his students "very much" as they were full of vigour and keen to learn. He said they had taken part in 40 groups to study Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung thought.

A total of 200 students had applied to join the Communist Party during the training term, and 38 had been accepted so far, he said, adding that students had done over 2,000 "good deeds" for local people.

Their training reflects the Chinese leadership's analysis of the root cause of the massive 1989 student-led protests — weak ideological education. Its prescription for preventing further unrest is to intensify political training and discipline.

While older Beijing University students passed the school year in glum cynicism after the violent quashing of the movement they helped lead, the 728 freshmen spent 10 months training at Shijiazhuang.

Victim of Vietnam faces crisis in loss of Soviet, East European aid

HANOI, July 8, (AP): Vietnam is being driven toward economic crisis by a large reduction in aid from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, its only major allies in the past decade.

Aid from non-communist countries began drying up when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978. It cannot turn to the International Monetary Fund or World Bank because of US opposition.

"Our relations were not balanced and not mutually beneficial," said Anatoly Voronine of the Soviet embassy. "We had to spend a lot of money for that friendship. We need to commercialise our co-operation."

Josef Hanculak, charge d'affaires of the Czechoslovak embassy, said about 90 per cent of Vietnam's credits had come from the Soviet bloc. He said the interest rate had been only 2 or 3 per cent a year, but going international rates would apply to future credits.

Prime Minister Do Muoi told the Parliament

June 28 that citizens must be more self-reliant and tighten their belts because foreign aid "that we ... have relied upon for many years now is being reduced rapidly." Cheap imports and huge loans for state expenditures no longer will be available, he said.

Vietnam signed a friendship treaty with Moscow shortly before invading Cambodia and has called the alliance the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

The Kremlin, however, now seeks better relations with Hanoi's archrival China and has lessened support for Vietnam on political

issues, including Cambodia. Voronine said military aid would be reduced significantly because Vietnam no longer is threatened.

Diplomats said Vietnam's alliance with the former Soviet satellites was based solely on common ideology and was bound to collapse when the political and economic systems in those nations changed.

"Vietnam's relations with East European countries will be on new conditions," said Ambassador Dietmar Grunbach of East Germany.

Whites held for bomb attacks

JOHANNESBURG, July 8, (Reuters): Police said today they had arrested a number of white extremists after a series of bomb attacks and threats to scuttle apartheid reforms designed to end white minority rule.

A police spokesman declined to say how many people had been detained. He said disclosure of further details would hamper investigations.

A Johannesburg Sunday newspaper named three men known in right-wing circles as among those under arrest. It said two of them were wanted in neighbouring Namibia in connection with last year's attack on a United Nations office in which a security guard was killed.

The third was described as a friend of Barend Strydom, sentenced to death for shooting dead eight blacks in central Pretoria in 1988.

White pro-apartheid extremists have claimed responsibility for a string of attacks on government offices, homes of liberal politicians, a synagogue, the office of a liberal Afrikaans newspaper which disclosed that white extremists were planning to assassinate black leader Nelson Mandela, South African President F.W. de Klerk and other politicians.

The extremists, some of whom call themselves the White Wolves, demand an end to reforms by De Klerk aimed at ending 40 years of formal race segregation.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has said negotiations with De Klerk would be disrupted unless Pretoria disarms right-wing extremist organisations, which it has also blamed for planting a bomb that injured 27 blacks in central Johannesburg on Friday.

Tens of thousands of African National Congress supporters marched in towns nation-wide yesterday to protest black factional fighting that has claimed thousands of lives.

Official permission was granted for about 20 peace marches planned by the ANC, and its allies, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the United Democratic Front, to mark the end of a week of national protest against the violence in Natal province.

Petitions protesting the violence were presented to authorities at various police stations throughout the country.

About 80,000 protesters staged a peaceful march through the streets in the eastern Cape province city of Port Elizabeth. The region is a traditional ANC stronghold.

There were no incidents despite a heavy police and army presence and the sealing off of some roads with barbed wire.

The march was led by recently returned ANC exile Thobile Mhlahlo and former police Lt. Gregory Rockman who last year exposed incidents of police brutality.

A memorandum delivered to police read "this is not black-on-black violence, it's also neither faction fighting, but apartheid war." President F.W. de Klerk was urged to stop the violence.

The Johannesburg march was led by ANC internal leader Walter Sisulu, who was released in October after 25 years in jail. He led about 2,000 protesters to police headquarters, John Vorster Square.

The African National Congress is ready to lift its commitment to armed struggle in exchange for the release of political prisoners in South Africa, according to a report in London today.

Mandela, told British Premier Margaret Thatcher during their recent meeting that he was prepared to recommend the lifting of the commitment if the Pretoria government agreed to free the prisoners, the Observer newspaper revealed.

A working group, made up of representatives of the ANC and the racist government, meeting in Cape Town in May, produced an unpublished report spelling out the terms of a deal.

The Observer described it as an "even-handed agreement" which also saw the release of whites imprisoned for political crimes.

Kosovo rivals call to strike against Serbian crackdown

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, July 8, (Reuters): Opposition leaders in Kosovo today called on ethnic Albanians to strike after Yugoslavia's biggest republic, Serbia, dissolved the rebel province's government and imposed stern security measures.

The Democratic Forum, comprising Kosovo's main ethnic Albanian opposition groups, issued a statement calling for Albanians to stop work between nine and 10 am each day.

Serbia dissolved Kosovo's parliament and government and purged the Albanian-language media after local deputies declared Kosovo's independence from Serbia, of which the province is a part.

Serbian authorities stepped up security in the province at the weekend. Police, many in full riot gear and armed with automatic rifles, patrolled the streets of most major towns.

Western diplomats said the strike call could be an attempt to avoid a repeat of the riots against Serbian rule in which at least 50 people, mostly Albanians, have been killed in the last 18 months.

Opposition leader Veton Surroi read the strike call, which urged "a limited general strike in all companies, health, cultural and educational institutions and the police and media."

Police today continued to occupy Albanian-language radio and television stations in Pristina, the regional capital, and dispersed some 500 journalists who staged a sit-down protest outside the television station.

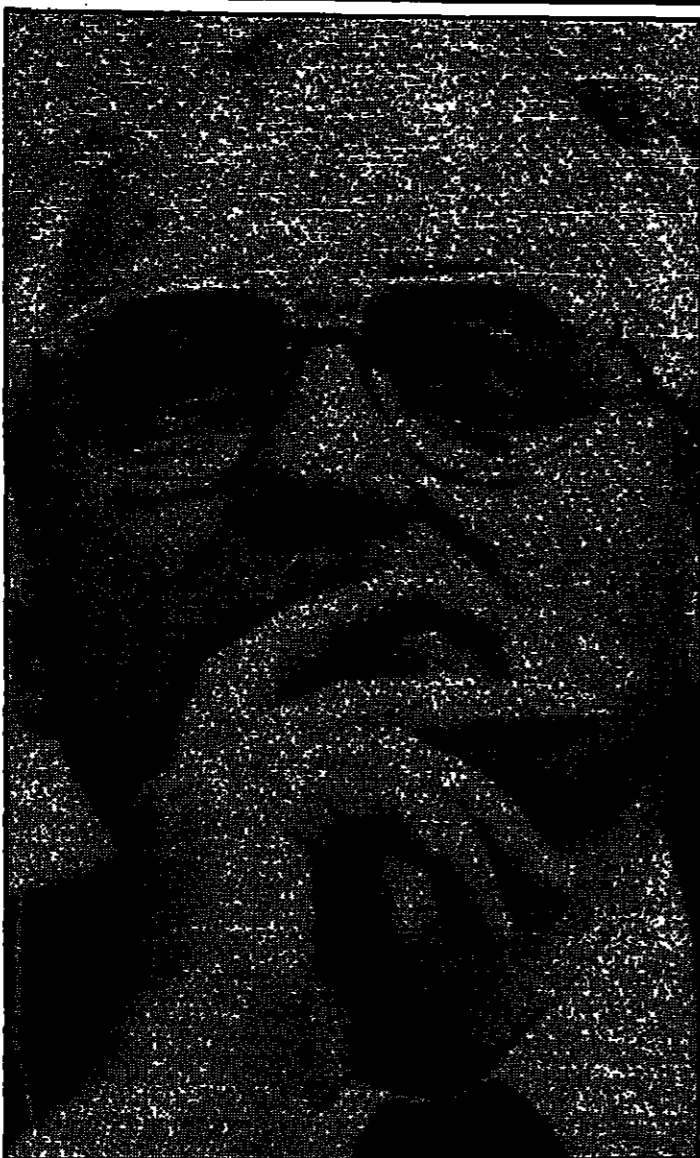
Yesterday police prevented the largest Albanian opposition group, the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, from holding an outdoor news conference.

In a protest against the crackdown, diplomats from European Economic Community states, the United States, Canada and Norway boycotted a reception by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to mark a Serbian national holiday on Friday, diplomats said.

The rebel Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia yesterday defined demands from communist federal leaders in Belgrade to annul a declaration of full state sovereignty.

Kosovo rivals call to strike against Serbian crackdown.

Serbian officials said they would take severe measures to break the strike. "Anyone going on strike will be fired on the spot and their paycheck will be withheld," Dragan Nikolic, a member of the Serbian government, told reporters.



Gorbachev listens to speeches during the congress

No one has ever stopped history

Memorable quotes

MOSCOW, July 8, (Reuters): Following are memorable quotes from speakers during the first week of the 28th Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow: "Either society goes along the road of the deep transformations that have begun... or anti-perestroika forces will get the upper hand, and then dark times are in store for the country and the people," — Mikhail Gorbachev, arguing the case for reform.

"Deep changes are taking place in Eastern Europe. When they say it is a collapse of socialism, we can counter: What type of socialism? A variety of the Stalinist authoritarian and bureaucratic system which we ourselves have abandoned," — Gorbachev, defending his foreign policy.

"If that's all you've got to say, sit down," — Gorbachev to a delegate who had questioned his handling of a session.

"You can defend dogmas for a while but not one has ever stopped history," — Alexander Yakovlev, a Gorbachev ally, urging the party old-guard to change their thinking.

"Thoughtless radicalism, improvisation and swinging from side to side have yielded us little good during the past five years of perestroika," — conservative politburo member Yegor Ligachev attacking Gorbachev's reforms.

"If we go on spending a quarter of our budget on the military, we will finally ruin our country. Then we won't need any defence, and the army won't defend a system which has brought economic and social collapse," — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in defence of arms reduction policies.

"If the people turn its back on the party, that is a matter for the people," — Yakovlev, denying he had contributed to a world-wide collapse of socialism.

"I do not accept the term the reunification of Germany. What is going on is the annexation, even the swallowing by the Federal Republic of the German Democratic Republic," — Ligachev.

"I reject the suggestion that the GDR has been given on a plate to Bonn. The people of the GDR are deciding their own fate, no one else," — Shevardnadze.

"The question is often asked: What is the KGB keeping its eye on? Generally speaking, we can say we are keeping an eye on what we have to," — KGB chief and politburo member Vladimir Kryuchkov.

"People in the middle of Smolensk region (in western Russia) are living worse than in Ethiopia," — David Kugultinov, a poet from the north Caucasus accusing the party of being out of touch with reality.

"Each peasant feeds 17 of those who walk around with slogans blaming the party for everything," — state farm director Anatoly Porutchikov attacking liberals.

Mengistu secret trip

Israel denies Italian report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 8, (UPI): Israel denied today an Italian newspaper report that Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam made a secret visit to Israel last week.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman also said Israel was not supplying military assistance to Mengistu's government, which is losing ground to rebels in the long-running war in the provinces of Eritrea and Tigray.

The Italian daily Il Messaggero reported that the Ethiopian leader met with Israeli and US officials in Tel Aviv during a secret visit, said to have taken place last week. Ethiopia resumed diplomatic ties with Israel last November after a 16-year break.

Gorbachev's moves backfire

Soviet leader tries to save reformist members

MOSCOW, July 8, (Reuters): Deft footwork by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to spare his Politburo from individual judgement at a Communist Party congress appeared to have backfired today.

While Gorbachev met worker and farmer delegations in the Kremlin, the radio said all Moscow was talking about how he beat off a conservative attempt to rate members of the ruling party body individually at the congress yesterday.

"How skilfully Politburo members have escaped responsibility. People are talking about this on trolleybuses, everywhere, it is the talks of the town," a radio commentator said.

"I want to tell you something," the Soviet leader said, wagging his finger at delegates. "If you want to split the party, if you want to bury it, then you're going about it the right way."

The 4,700 congress delegates, clearly cowed by his fighting response, then approved a counter-proposal for a vote on the leadership as a whole to be taken later in the session.

It appeared the Soviet leader was trying to solve the reformist members of his leadership team — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his adviser Alexander Yakovlev — from a damning assessment at the conservative-dominated congress.

Politburo members were on the spot much of the day yesterday, fielding hostile questions from headline critics and dismissing charges that weak leadership had sapped the party's strength.

Delegates have not questioned Gorbachev's right to continue as party chief, but they seemed intent on blaming his lieutenants for the country's social and economic crisis. The radio commentary suggested many ordinary citizens were also looking for scapegoats.

One congress delegate, Khachaturov Meloyan of Yerevan, criticised Gorbachev's move in a radio interview.

"We have to find out who was responsible for what. (Leaders) must be answerable and this implies responsibility, morally, materially and otherwise," he said.

"Everything seems to be impersonal," Meloyan complained. "What is the party? Nobody."

But another delegate, Vyacheslav Smirnov, said Gorbachev had done the right thing in avoiding placing individual blame on Politburo members.

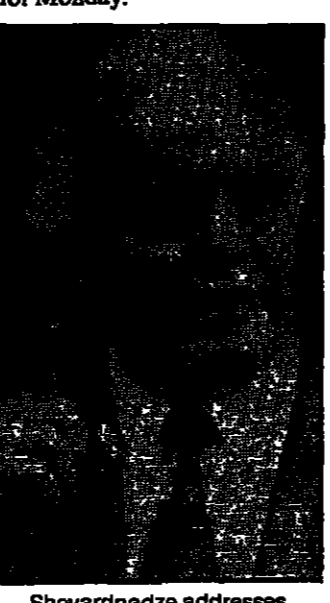
"If before decisions were taken in the Politburo in five minutes, now they are taken after exhaustive discussion. And if this is the case, what personal responsibility can you talk about?" Smirnov told the radio correspondent.

The radio report said attitudes toward the leadership were discussed today at Gorbachev's meeting with worker and farmer delegations to the congress.

It said Gorbachev, battling to overcome deep-rooted conservative thinking among communists, also sought to convince the delegations of the need to switch to a market economy.

"Gorbachev said it was not a matter of changing ideology, but a tactical transfer to new living conditions," the radio said.

The congress, which began on July 2, was meeting in commissions today afternoon. The next plenary session was scheduled for Monday.



Shevardnadze addresses

Nato's love-hate for N-arms

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): Nato leaders have agreed the cold war is over and that a new age is dawning — but their latest summit also highlighted the alliance's curious love-hate relationship with nuclear arms.

The thought of weapons of mass destruction, never used since the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan to end World War Two, sends a shiver down the spine for many people.

But at Nato they are treated with reverence as the ultimate guarantee of peace. They have also caused more rows within the 16-nation Western alliance than any other single issue.

Impersonal

Nuclear planners debate what they like to call "theory" for hours on end — using impersonal, arcane terms like "throw-weights" and "kill ratios."

"Sitting in on those meetings is a bit like being in a scene from Dr Strangelove," said one Nato diplomat, referring to the 1961 film that satirised the superpowers' nuclear confrontation.

"But it's a very serious business underneath all that. Everything is built on an elaborate set of theories and options because we've never had to use them. But we might one day."

Tinkered

The Nato summit in London last week tinkered with the wording of those theories, to make them appear less threatening to Moscow. Spurred on by the outbreak of democracy which has swept Eastern Europe, the leaders agreed to scale down their reliance on nuclear arms and to seek a joint peace declaration with the Warsaw Pact.

They agreed to explicitly make nuclear arms "weapons of last resort." Alliance officials said Nato had only ever intended to use them when the conventional battle appeared lost — in other words, in the last resort to avoid defeat.

But the leaders also said they would need to retain modern nuclear weapons in their arsenal and that the alliance should maintain its doctrine of "first use", with which Nato reserves the right to use nuclear weapons first in any conflict.

Even that slight adjustment to the semantics of nuclear policy caused a few problems at an otherwise harmonious meeting.

Unsure

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a vigorous proponent of strong nuclear defences, said she was unsure about it before giving in to the majority view.

But there was no sign of the wrangling over nuclear weapons that has torn the fabric of Nato unity at previous meetings. There was a row at a Brussels summit last year over whether to modernise short-range nuclear missiles.

Sensitivity about these weapons, often a major issue with public opinion, is extreme. Nato documents that deal with their possible use or deployment carry the highest classification.



Albanian leader Ramiz Alia addresses Communist Party leaders during the two-day crisis meeting in Tirana. (Reuters wirephoto)



Hekuran Isai



Simon Stefani



Manush Myftiu

Albania marching forward

Reformers in control: officials sacked

BONN, July 8, (Reuters): The sacking of Albania's interior minister and top party members, after a week in which thousands of refugees stormed embassies demanding to leave the Stalinist state, shows reformers are in control, political analysts said today.

"It is quite clear the liberals are marching forward," one analyst said in Bonn.

Up to 6,000 refugees were holed up in embassies today and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he had sent an envoy to Albania to try to solve the crisis.

Communist Party leaders, rocked by the unprecedented public dissent, ousted several hardliners in a party and government reshuffle at the end of a two-day crisis meeting yesterday.

The biggest casualty reported by the official news agency ATA was Interior Minister Simon Stefani, whose security police spent all week trying in vain to stop disillusioned Albanians flocking to the embassies to escape from 45 years of Stalinism.

"Stefani was one of the hardest. But you need a hard man in that job," said the analyst.

He is replaced by Hekuran Isai, a close ally of President Ramiz Alia. Isai was also interior minister under the late hardline leader Enver Hoxha.

Alia has been pushing for change but says any reforms should be gradual. He said on Friday economic reform would take priority and called for "confined and controlled private activity" in some economic sectors.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in a radio interview 3,000 asylum seekers were in Bonn's Embassy today. As many again are holed up in the Italian, French, Greek, Czechoslovak, Polish, Hungarian and Turkish missions.

About 600 Albanian troops

and police sealed off the foreign embassies district in Tirana today, French Foreign Ministry officials said, quoting reports from their embassy.

The officials said the controls and heavy security presence was in contrast with the last few days when Albanian police and soldiers allowed many would-be refugees into the area.

"The situation in our embassy and in the others has become unbearable," Genscher said. "Especially the hygiene conditions."

Many Albanians were badly cut while scaling foreign embassy walls to seek refuge last week, a French doctor flown in to Tirana was quoted as saying today.

A French Foreign Ministry official said in Paris that 60 per cent of the refugees who had been treated in the French Embassy by the doctor were suffering from cuts caused by climbing walls during their flight early last week.

French Embassy officials today collected 600 official exit forms from the Albanian authorities and distributed them to the refugees, the ministry official said.

Tirana said all the refugees will receive passports but did not make it clear when they could leave the country.

Diplomatic sources said a power struggle, waged in secret since Hoxha's death in 1985, had burst into the open at the emergency meeting. Hardliners have rallied behind Hoxha's widow, who advocates continued Stalinist and isolationist policies.

Analysts said the changes strengthened the reformers' hand in the government but did not signify a total rout of the conservatives. Stefani remains in the party's ruling politburo and will lead the economic state control commission.

Prokop Murra, another leading conservative, was sacked as defence minister and also lost his place in the 13-member polit-

buro, along with veterans Manush Myftiu and Rita Marko.

All three men are over 70 years old and are replaced in the politburo by three party officials believed to favour reform.

"Myftiu and Marko have been in power since the 1950s. I think they have been sacked mainly since they are so old," one analyst said. "This may all have been done to give Albanians hope things will get better now these types have been ousted."

Diplomats said Alia was concerned about general discontent, shortages, poor infrastructure and the need to raise living standards nearer to those in neighbouring Greece and Yugoslavia.

In May he announced tentative reforms including the right to a passport and eased a ban on religious activity in the officially atheist country which has a large Muslim population.

French officials said De Cuellar's envoy would seek Tirana's agreement to a mass evacuation of the refugees.

A British television correspondent in Tirana said only refugees already in the embassies would be allowed to go abroad.

Earth First members gather

MONTANA, July 8, (UPI): Earth First members trickled into the gravelly mountains Saturday in Ennis, Montana for their annual Round River rendezvous hours after a federal appeals judge refused to block the meeting.

About 20 members of the radical environmentalist group set up portable toilets, solar electricity panels, a bicycle generator, stage and beer depot for the estimated 300 to 500 wilderness advocates and musicians expected to camp amid the Douglas fir trees and wild roses, strawberries, lupen and yarrow by midweek.

African leaders meet amid concern at reforms in Eastern Europe

ADDIS ABABA, July 8, (Reuters): Concern that Western support for economic reform in Eastern Europe could divert aid from their own impoverished continent will dominate this year's summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Many leaders also believe the West will increasingly link aid to African nations, many of them under single-party rule, to their own democratic revitalisation, pressuring for multi-party systems.

The leaders' response during their three-day meeting starting tomorrow is likely to include a call for more democratic — although not necessarily multi-party — politics.

Nelson Mandela, symbol of reform in South Africa, can expect a rapturous welcome and support for his view that there should as yet be no lifting of sanctions against Pretoria.

There will also be applause for representatives of newly independent Namibia, the

OAU's 51st member state.

Foreign ministers worked here until the early hours today to set the agenda for the summit. In their draft declaration on politics they welcomed South African reforms but recommended continued OAU pressure for more change.

Referring to pro-democracy protests in a string of African countries, the draft declaration said member states should commit themselves to more popular participation in politics, and more honesty

and accountability by governments.

"We recommend ourselves... to the consolidation of democratic institutions in our countries, taking into account the realities of each of our countries," the draft said.

OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim warned the ministers: "There are clear signals that multi-partyism will increasingly emerge as a political condition for aid or credit."

NRI s keen to participate in India's development plans

THE Joint Communique was read by Rajan Nireskwalia, on behalf of Kuwait NRI Forum Chairman, CSS Khanpuri. The seminar was held in New Delhi from July 4-6.

The communique is being reproduced, in full, by the Arab Times.

The 3rd Gulf NRI seminar, held on 4th, 5th and 6th July, 1990 at New Delhi was inaugurated by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral on 4th July, 1990 and was addressed by the Hon'ble Industry Minister Shri Ajit Singh on 5th July, 1990. Our elderly statesman Hon'ble Gyanai Sali Singh ex-president of India addressed the conference on 6th July, 1990 and Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism, Shri Satya Pal Malik and Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Hari Kishore Singh, graced the conference on 5th and 6th July respectively. A number of leading bankers and industry experts, over 200 NRI delegates from Kuwait, Dubai, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Muscat, Singapore and some European countries and more than 150 Indian delegates attended.

The Seminar discussed a number of issues related to NRI investments in banks, portfolio and secondary markets, industrial projects, taxation, RBI regulations, trade and tourism promotion and general resettlement issues including education. The main focus of these deliberations emphasised that NRIs, with their economic resources, technical and professional expertise and vision on future development ideas, wish to be partners in India's future development plans.

Salient points emerging from the three-day deliberations are presented here under for the kind attention of the government of India:

1. Five year permission on exploratory basis

RBI has stated that NRIs desiring to return to India on exploratory basis are exempted from foreign exchange control regulations requiring surrender of foreign currency balances within three months of their arrival in India. They stated that the above facility in the normal course is not refused. This facility is indeed very useful and we have to commend RBI for this. However, we would like to make the following recommendations: Such permission should be obtained by the Indian national concerned prior to his arrival in India. Infact we feel that such permission could be made automatic subject only to indication to RBI of the intention of the NRI concerned.

2. Investment in new public issues

In the case of the majority of the public issues of first class companies, the company concerned does not require foreign exchange and therefore do not allot shares for subscription by NRIs. As such NRIs are prevented from using this very important vehicle of investment. The RBI has stated that while they have no objection to an NRI being allotted such shares, they can do nothing if the Indian company concerned does not apply for permission to allot shares to NRIs. We recommend that the government find some means by which it could be made mandatory for all Indian companies to allot at least a small portion of the share capital to NRIs.

3. One year limitation for sale of shares

According to current FERA regulations, an NRI who has purchased shares on repatriable basis in portfolio trading is not allowed to sell such shares for one year from the date of purchase.

The one year unconditional restriction on sale of shares and convertible debentures, purchased through the Stock Exchange on repatriable basis is a very unfair limitation on the right of the NRI investor to dispose off the investment at the most opportune time. This restriction should be removed and, if considered necessary, it may be stipulated that the sale proceeds cannot be repatriated for reasonable minimum period. In that event, the proceeds could either be re-invested for the stipulated period in any foreign exchange asset like NRE/FCNR account and/or utilised for personal expenses of the NRI in India.

4. NRI bonds

We understand that the government is planning a new issue of a non-repatriable foreign currency bond following the success of the first bond issued last year through State Bank. In this connection, we would like to request the government to allow such a bond to be open-ended carrying a rate of interest which would be



Indian Vice-President Shankar Dayal Sharma (centre) with Indian ambassador to Kuwait A.K. Budhiraja and the Kuwait chapter of the Gulf NRI forum.

one per cent above the rate applicable on 3 years FCNR deposits prevailing as on the date of purchase of the bond.

Interest should be allowed to be repatriated as long as the investor remains a non-resident. After the NRIs return to India, the interest would be paid in rupees at the exchange rates prevailing on the appropriate due dates.

The restriction of three years for gifting or using the bonds for obtaining loans should be removed. All other terms and conditions of the previous bond should also be maintained.

Another important point is that while previously the sale of such bonds were channelled only through State Bank of India, we feel it would be of great advantage to allow this bond to be marketed by any bank operating in India, and which has branches or head offices abroad.



Ambassador Budhiraja addressing the seminar.

5. Agricultural properties

Currently, there is a restriction for NRIs to own agricultural properties, at a time when there are large areas of land which could be developed for agricultural purpose but is not being done because of certain difficulties in converting such land into arable land. Such lands continue to be non-productive. Government could pick out such areas where there is a possibility of using modern technology and allow NRIs to bring in such technology and foreign investment to convert such lands into crop growing areas. If sufficient incentives are given and such areas are allocated to development by NRIs then there could be considerable response, which in turn would greatly benefit the economy.

6. Commercial properties

There is an acute shortage of housing in India, and everybody is saying that something has to be done, so why restrict NRIs from getting involved. If proper laws are introduced, like those existing in several developed countries, for mortgage loans to be given where individuals can buy small flats or houses with the loan repayable over a 30 year period, then NRIs may be interested to develop housing on a large scale and make it available to the common man. A certain percentage of the profits arising from such operations could be made repatriable after a minimum period of investment of 5 to 10 years.

The facility of importing cement, steel, machinery and equipment for construction may be allowed to NRIs as part of their contribution. Also, the latest technology of prefabricated housing, use of synthetic doors, windows and fixtures should be allowed to be imported freely. We believe that this is an extremely important area that could not only bring in hundreds of crores into India but will also help to solve the acute housing problems that exist almost everywhere.

7. Black money Havala Transfers

It is suggested that those NRIs who remit funds through normal banking channels, should be given customs duty concession when they visit India on vacation. The quantum of this concession may be linked to the total remittance made on non-repatriable basis during the NRIs stay abroad prior to each such visit to India.

Another disincentive in regard to Havala Transfers would be the introduction of a two tier

exchange rate system similar to that introduced in countries like Bangladesh, Egypt etc., which have been very successful.

8. Import of gold

It is suggested that NRIs visiting India may be given permission to purchase gold or gold jewellery in limited quantities at duty free shops in India against payment in foreign exchange at the international gold prices without paying any duty. However, if this is not possible then the government may consider imposing a small surcharge over the price of the gold in lieu of duty. This will enable the country not only to earn non-repatriable foreign exchange but it would also check the illegal practice of hoarding gold.

9. Income tax and wealth tax

Presently all assets brought to India and acquired within one year before returning to India for permanent settlement are exempted from wealth tax for 7 years. In order to encourage returning Indians from bringing all their money back to India and to prevent them from stashing money abroad, it is strongly recommended that the tax exemption be also extended to income arising from these assets which are brought into India.

10. Separate ministry for NRIs

We would suggest that apart from tapping NRIs' monetary resources, the government should also seriously consider using the skills and expertise of NRIs in building the nation's economy. This calls for a change in outlook and we believe that NRIs should be seen as equal partners in all processes of development. In this context, we would suggest that a full fledged ministry be created to take care of NRIs issues and returning expatriates. Citizens in India have their elected representatives, foreigners have their own diplomatic missions to look after their respective interests. Why should not NRIs have their own ministry to take care of their special requirements. In this connection, we would mention that Indian nationals have made major contributions to economic activity in the West as well as in the East. There is, therefore, no reason why their special skills and expertise and resources cannot be brought together for the development of their own country.

Record note of discussions held at Business Centre, Taj Palace, on July 7, 1990.

Present: 1. Ratan Jindal, Jindal; 2. M.K. Ratan, M.K.J. Enterprises; 3. A. Rehman, Jindal; 4. K.R. Srinivasan, Mukand; 5. B.S. Shekhawat, Panchmahal; 6. Jagdish Jindal, Jindal; 7. A.K. Biswas, Rathi; 8. H.C. Lohia, Rathi; 9. Nidhi Shah, Mukand; 10. Dr. V.V. Kanetkar, Panchmahal; 11. J.P. Lath, M.K. J. Ltd.

11. Ceiling on portfolio investments by NRIs

The present ceiling of one per cent individually and total of 5 per cent was introduced for certain valid reasons after representations were made by several companies in India who were possibly afraid of large scale acquisition by NRIs. However, for those companies which indicate that they have no objection to acquisition of shares by non-residents without any limit or have agreed for a higher limit of even 10 per cent to 25 per cent, the RBI should not have any objection in allowing such high investments. For this purpose, a specific request or form should be submitted by the company along with a resolution of its board to seek RBI approval for higher investments by NRIs.

12. Industrial investments

For rapid industrialisation, reliable and quick communication system, efficient transport and adequate power supply are absolute pre-requisites. Government resources are limited to develop these core sectors. Hence, we believe that NRIs should be allowed to invest in all these sectors including construction of highways, operation of

ferry services and power plants on repatriable basis which, we are sure, will have a tremendous impact on the development process.

13. Indian Investment Centres

Indian Investment Centres in the Gulf, have been performing extremely important functions, by disseminating useful information as well as extending much needed assistance to the Gulf NRIs, who are interested in setting up industrial projects in India. We strongly recommend that the government should reconsider the question of closing the Indian Investment Centres in the Gulf especially since the Indian Missions, in these countries presently have limited staff to render such assistance.

14. Industrial estates and resettlement of workers

A. Considering that NRIs often have a very short time available when they visit India for their holidays, and the several difficulties that are encountered in identification of projects, particularly for the Gulf NRIs, who have no technical or industrial expertise experience, the following steps at the state level should be considered for increasing NRI investment.

a) Industrial estates for NRIs should be developed as has been done by some states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh (through ANRICH). To begin with, this could be done at least in those of the other states which are relatively popular with NRIs viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

b) If necessary, some of the infrastructure in such estates including educational and housing facilities, could be developed as a joint activity (or otherwise) with NRI resources.

c) Specific projects in the large, medium and small scale sectors should be identified to be set up in these estates. These may be offered to the prospective NRI investors after the minimum/ necessary spade work in terms of market survey, obtaining letter of intent/registration, etc. has been done on them.

d) It is a fact that the skilled and the semi-skilled workers from the Gulf region who contribute a very large portion of the inward remittances to India, cannot fit into the current schemes for NRIs which are mainly aimed at sophisticated high profile and well placed investors and technocrats. It is, therefore, suggested that suitable schemes for self-employment ventures be framed for such workers returning home from the Gulf and a "skill pool" be established for them, to be drawn upon by the potential industrialists and entrepreneurs. The government should also allow such workers to bring with them, free of any duty, the tools and equipment of their trade or profession. Considering the level of awareness and expertise of this class of NRIs, the government should seriously consider organising, from time to time, workshops for potential small scale or self-employed entrepreneurs in the important centres in the Gulf. All Indian missions should provide information in the regional languages containing details of schemes, facilities, concessions, regulations and formalities to be complied with, so that the returning NRIs could be well versed with these before they reach India.

15. Encouraging sales of Indian consumer durables to the NRIs

With the development of exports of Indian durables to the Gulf and other countries, we have observed that many NRIs purchase Indian durables like television, refrigerators, scooters, etc. and ship them back to India. We therefore, suggest that a scheme be developed whereby returning NRIs could buy such durables at the airport by payment in foreign exchange. The concerned Indian traders could definitely be able to sell the same commodities at lower prices than available abroad, since there would be a saving on

the freight costs and profit margins of the sellers abroad.

Education facilities for NRI children

Gulf NRIs face several problems in finding seats for their children in schools and colleges. These problems are becoming very acute. Therefore, we would make the following suggestions in this regard. As most NRIs especially from the Gulf area are keen to retain their social, cultural and intellectual link with India, it is necessary that certain restrictions need to be removed and concessions be given in matters of educating the children of NRIs in India. For the returning Gulf NRIs, the problem of finding seats for the children in schools or colleges, becomes...

We, therefore, make the following suggestions:

1. Opening of separate schools and colleges for the children of NRIs. Even opening of a separate university in a centralised place for the NRI children would be most welcome. Funding of these projects could be substantially made by the NRIs themselves.

2. For children of NRIs who want to pursue technical, medical or other specialised education, sufficient provision should be made in I.I.T.s, medical, technical and other institutions.

3. 25 per cent reservations for NRIs who desire to become entrepreneurs should be made in the National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISIT) for entrepreneurship development. This will give a thrust to new industries and the chances of such industries falling sick will be minimised. The background knowledge being obtained during the course will help the participants in keeping up the standards, efficiency and professional approach.

If our above suggestions are implemented and NRI students are accommodated in India, apart from continuing their cultural ties, our country could earn substantial foreign exchange which otherwise would have been spent in another country. A logical extension of this idea would be that NRIs could be encouraged to invest in opening educational institutions in India in the same manner as private organisations are now doing. These institutions can run on a professional basis as profit centres. NRIs have already demonstrated that they are capable of running educational institutions, as can be seen from the success they have achieved in the Gulf countries. If NRIs are allowed to run private educational institutions with their own resources and experience thus easing the burden of expenses on the exchequer, this would in addition generate a substantial foreign exchange for the country.

Overseas Indian children also lack adequate hostel facilities in India and the government should help in setting up such hostels. We are sure that many NRIs would agree to contribute their funds for the development of such projects. We understand that CBSE has been entrusted with the task of holding joint entrance tests all over India for admission to government medical colleges. This is a good step but this test is not being held outside India. It would benefit NRI students if such entrance tests are held outside India with the help of Indian missions abroad.

General Issues

A) Although this issue is not directly connected to NRI investments etc., we feel that we must make a point concerning our national carrier Air India. A large number of NRIs from all over the Gulf have made persistent representations to our forums as well as to local newspapers concerning the attitude and service of Air India which is stated to be deteriorating day by day. Further, the most important thing is that instead of attempting to find ways and means of reducing fares of Gulf NRIs, which represent a large proportion of low middle class, Air India has instead been increasing fares on regular basis. As an example, we would point out that the return fare from Kuwait to London is almost the same as Kuwait-Bombay-Kuwait, although the distance involved to London is twice as much.

B) We would also like to draw the attention of the government to the fact that some schemes introduced by the government for the benefit of NRIs like Delhi Administration preferential land allotment against foreign exchange have been withdrawn. The concerned NRIs feel that the reasons for such withdrawal are either inadequate or non-existence. Due implementation of such schemes can further strengthen NRIs commitment to channel more foreign exchange into India.

Local craftsmen seeking support

Demand for state subsidy

KUWAITI craftsmen at the Sulabiya area have a pressing need for financial support in order to face up to the establishing stage of their workshops and factories. In addition they require new roads into the area and enough advertising for their services through various media.

Members of the committee appointed to resolve the problems of craftsmen pointed out that officials particularly, at the Ministry of Finance and the general stores administration are already taking up the matter. They added that Kuwaiti youth have actually started to work on their own initiatives by establishing workshops and factories which the country is very proud of. These craftsmen are also willing to train and qualify Kuwaitis interested in technical professions particularly since society has begun to change its outlook to accepting Kuwaiti handicrafts.

A local daily interviewed a number of craftsmen to bring their problems and the nature of their work to light. Ali Ibrahim Al Dawi, the owner of an electronics establishment and member at the area craftsmen committee said that the main problem is represented by the fact that Sulabiya is a new area yet unknown by many customers. In addition, he added most shop owners suffer high rents.

A number of craftsmen complained to the minister of finance and representatives from the Ministry of Commerce thereafter toured shops to inspect conditions.

Dawi explained that the meeting with the minister of finance provided the ideal opportunity to introduce all of the problems in the area in one go and it certainly helped. He added that

shopowners demanded lower rents, financial support and paving of new roads into the area. Upon directives from the minister a committee was formed to study all the problems.

Abdul Wahab Al Shaiji owner of a carpentry shop in Sulabiya said that his original profession was ship building which he started in 1972 in a shop in Shuwaikh. He added that he had to move out of Shuwaikh to Sulabiya due to high rents. He said he is full of hope that most of his problems will be resolved by the committee formed by the minister of finance.

He pointed out the importance of training Kuwaiti youth in carpentry adding that he had personally trained a number of youths.

The area is still underdeveloped and requires that it be made known to the public. Shaiji said.

Border centres plan complete

RELEVANT authorities have completed plans to build the three border centres in Abadi, Nuwaiseb and Salmi that were approved by the Council of Ministers. The committee supervising the three projects headed by Major-General Mohammed Al Bader allocated a budget of KD30 million as costs of the project that will comprise multipurpose buildings for several services.

Reliable sources expected that project construction will start after the end of this summer and the project is expected to be completed within two years.

On the other hand, the committee will discuss ways to support transportation from border centres to the different selling centres and places inside the country. The committee will also apply restrictions to transportation in co-operation with transport companies to ensure the stability of prices of transportation after completion of the project.

Standardisation of certificates planned

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs at the Ministry of Education Dr Yaqoub Al Sharrah has been quoted as saying that a committee chaired by him has been formed recently to conduct a comprehensive study to equalise the International Baccalaureate Certificate with the Kuwaiti Secondary Certificate.

In an interview with a local daily the official said that the committee based its studies in this connection on the prospectus and printed matter issued by International Baccalaureate organisations in addition to the report submitted by the Kuwaiti delegation to the International Baccalaureate Conference which took place in Amman on 12 and March 13, 1990.

He added that the committee's study is also based on previous studies conducted by the Ministry of Education in this respect.

Sharrah said that the committee had consulted officials at Kuwait based foreign schools who already apply the International Baccalaureate system in addition to field visits paid by the committee's members to some foreign schools in Kuwait.

Review

Apart from the above the official said that the committee will hold its meeting to review different technical reports prepared in this connection on July 18.

Speaking on the nature of baccalaureate certificates, the official said that the present system was based on a system introducing an educational programme for the last years of the secondary stage.

After that the students will be subject to a central examination to be prepared by Geneva based International Baccalaureate organisation. He added that the curriculum of the said certificate included apart from the national language a foreign language to be selected by students, humanitarian studies such as history, geography, religious studies, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computers. He added that the students who might be conferred with such a certificate will be admitted by a greater number of universities throughout the world and will be exempted from the admission test.

Travel season good for merchants

PRIOR to the travel season, commercial stores resort to stockpiling to meet the requirements of their clients for consumer goods. Customers during the season do not buy for themselves but as gifts for their friends and relatives. Some people sought cheap goods, while others prefer buying quality irrespective of the price.

Apart from the above there is a third section of customers who seek standard quality for a reasonable price. Merchants strive to meet the different requirements of every category as this diversification process enhances their profits.

To highlight this issue a local daily toured the commercial markets in order to monitor preparations for the travel season and to interview a number of shop owners.

Aref Mohammed said that he deals with ready made clothing as it was profitable and void of risk. He added that the season starts in February and ends in August. He attributed discrepancy in prices between shops to the disparity in rent.

Mustafa Zebarah said that the market witnesses significant activity at the beginning of the summer season and accordingly profit percentages increased. But, he added that the market also witnessed retreat compared to previous years. He attributed this recession to the restrictions imposed on the visit visas.

Wael Addulfattah said that during the travel season customers did not purchase goods to meet

their requirements only, but also presents gifts to their friends and relatives. He added that merchants were keen to provide good quality items during this season at reasonable prices. He further said that he deals with ready made clothes and most of his customers prefer Turkish goods as they were both fashionable and cheap.

He attributed price hikes to the volatility of the US dollar and the shortage of fabric in some European and Asian countries.

Ghassan Wasef said that some shops were making a 90 per cent profit during the travel season in view of the increasing demand for different consumer goods. He said that most customers sought cheap goods as they are under the impression that goods imported from Taiwan or China are cheap and accordingly they do not believe the price may be fixed by the merchants on goods.

He added, even the customs department did not believe in the prices listed in the exporters bills either from Lebanon or Turkey and mostly reassess the goods and add surcharges which sometimes were more than the price listed in the invoice. He pointed out that this resulted in merchants hiking the prices of their goods in order to offset the surcharges added by the customs department.

Hassan Shiraz said that the travel season is best for merchants because the market becomes active.

Khader Sadeq said that the travel season is the best opportunity for making a good profit.

NRI

(Continued from Page 1)

The joint communique, read at the concluding ceremony presided over by Minister of State for External Affairs Hari Kishore Singh, calls for setting up a separate ministry to handle NRI affairs. It also urges the government of India to "tap NRI resources" by easing investment in industry, housing and agriculture.

The recommendations are based on the premise that NRI money could be used in sectors which need funding, like developing transportation, communication, highways construction, power plants. NRIs are seeking repatriable investment facilities; open-ended bonds and exemption from foreign exchange control restrictions before resettling in India. Presently, such exemption can be granted after returning home.

It also urges the authority to review "inward remittance

schemes," which presently aim at high-profile investors and technocrats. It suggests offering "self-employment" schemes for semi-skilled workers resettling in India and calls for the establishment of a "skill pool." Such Gulf workers must also be allowed to bring tools and equipment.

It has stressed the need to develop NRI industrial estates in such states as UP, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Haryana and Rajasthan, with NRI funds. The industrial estate scheme is operating successfully in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Indian investment centres in the Gulf face closure. The communique has urged the government to reconsider the decision as such centres perform an "extremely important function." Education also got a mention in the communique, which urges the government to reserve seats in specialised institutes. Niresk-

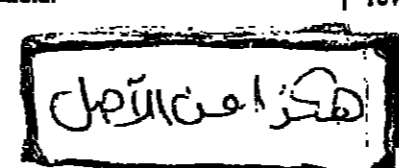
walia said they also discussed the possibility of opening an NRI university.

Air-India's fares policy was criticised at the meeting, and the communique urged the Indian government to review the airline's policy of "hiking fares."

"We have the middle-class travellers in mind; the airline is not giving the service we expect but charges high fares; and something must be done about that," he said.

The third Gulf NRI seminar was organised by the Kuwait NRI Forum. The previous two seminars were held in Bahrain and Dubai.

Some 200 delegates from the Gulf and 200 Indian officials and businessmen took part in this year's meet, described by Nireskwalia as one of the "most successful" seminars organised by the Non-Resident Indians.



Training in environ protection planned

State authorities react positively

THE secretary of the Environment Protection Council Ibrahim Hadi has said that the council is paying a special attention to the provision of training courses to government authorities employees in the environment arena. Courses may entail the combating of desertification and anti-pollution training in addition to other fields relating to environment protection.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the Environment Protection Council through its five-year plan 1990/1991 - 1994/1995 adopted a

programme to organise about 13 courses. A questionnaire in this connection has been prepared and distributed to the state's authorities including Shuaiba Industrial Area, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Interior and Communications in addition to Kuwait Municipality, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Ministry of Oil and its affiliated

companies and the Environment Protection Department.

Priorities

Hadi added that such a questionnaire aimed at probing the priorities of state authorities towards organising the proposed 13 training courses.

The courses will also cover handling of oil slicks, studies on water pollution, environmental returns of the development projects, anti-rodent campaign, the study of energy types and its effects on the environment in addition to the preservation of

wild animals.

Some government authorities have reacted positively to the idea of these programmes particularly those relating to anti-desertification training and the preserving of desert flora, Hadi said.

Nominations

He added that the Ministry of Electricity and Water has nominated about 180 candidates to join the proposed training course, while Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) nominated 11, the Ministry of Oil and its

affiliated companies 17, Environment Protection Department 16, Kuwait Municipality five and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, three.

With regard to the handling of oil slicks, the official said that Shuaiba Industrial Area has nominated 10 candidates for this programme, KISR 13, Ministry of Electricity and Water 93, Ministry of Oil and its companies 17 and Environment Protection Department six. Other authorities have shown no enthusiasm for this programme, Hadi said.

Begging must end, says crime chief

Security risk

LT COL Abdul Hameed Al Awadi, head of the money-related crimes department has told Al Dakhiliya magazine that begging is an abnormal phenomenon in Kuwait which must be combated with every possible means, as it smears the reputation of citizens in the eyes of visitors, let alone the different negative aspects associated with it.

He said that beggars must be labelled suspects, as they roam the streets and commit many crimes, such as theft and assault on ladies.

He pointed out that begging poses a great hazard to security in the country, and many women beggars turned out to be men whose intentions were far from collecting money only.

The rise of begging is usually noticed in poverty-stricken communities, or communities where unemployment is high. Awadi said. He added that it is very fortunate that Kuwaitis have special official agencies and ins-

tutions to provide money to the needy and underpaid, to support social solidarity.

He pointed out that some people nevertheless insist on begging as a way to easy money, although they are capable of taking up honest jobs.

He said that some beggars would produce documents seemingly attested from a neighbouring country claiming loss of the family breadwinner or husband and needing help, and people here out of Islamic and religious commitment would not turn a deaf ear to their appeals.

Support

He attached great importance to the role of the existing charity establishments, the Ministry of Awkaf and Zakat House in putting an end to this phenomenon. He pointed the vital role that the media play in extending charity and financial support to the needy in and outside Kuwait.

Unfortunately not only the poor have resorted to begging but beggars include others who

apparently have other plans up their sleeves. Awadi said. He added that it requires intensive co-operation to get rid of this bad phenomenon through refusing to indirectly encourage begging by refraining from offering money. Awadi said.

He pointed out the importance of co-operation with securitymen in reporting the presence of beggars in certain neighbourhoods as the duty of people to the security situation. This will also protect against thieves dressed up as beggars who go from door-to-door in the early morning when women are only in the house to force their way inside or have a close look where it would be suitable to raid.

He said that arrested beggars will face prosecution, and receive jail terms which usually ends in deportation. Children caught for begging will have their parents called in for submission of a written pledge that they will never beg again.

Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to: Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

I HAVE been working with the same company for the past seven years and I get my annual leave pay regularly. Last year, I delivered my baby in my country and I approached my manager regarding maternity leave. He said I will not receive any. I would like to know if I am entitled for such pay and how many days?

I am leaving Kuwait for good at the end of this year. Please advise how many days I am entitled to gratuity payments plus maternity leave. In case the manager refuses to pay the above, which authority shall I approach?

J.G.

MATERNITY leave is mentioned in Article 25 of the Kuwaiti Labour Law. It says a woman has the right to take 30 days leave before delivery and 40 days after delivery. If a woman avails maternity leave, the annual leave will be cancelled, it adds.

In your case, you gave birth to the baby in your country. This means that you have the right to take 40 days leave after delivery. But you must provide all papers proving the delivery took place in your country; all certificates must then be stamped and authenticated by embassies and foreign ministries in both countries.

And about your end of contract benefits, if you resign, you are entitled to 7.5 days leave for each year for the first five years and half month for the subsequent years.

I HAVE recently resigned from a W.L.L. company in Kuwait after serving as a manager for one year and nine and a half months. I was allowed 21 working days leave per year. I availed only 20 days till the end of my job. Am I entitled to any gratuity, leave benefits or any other allowance?

R.K.

YOU did not mention whether you had a limited or an unlimited contract. I'll deal with your query according to unlimited contract. You are entitled to take a vacation and according to your contract, as you say, you get 21 days.

You took 20 days leave in one year and nine and a half months; you are entitled to get 21 days for the first year and 15 days for part of the second year as you took only 20 days leave, you are entitled to 16 days. At

the time of calculating the duration of annual leave, count working days, excluding Fridays and holidays.

I HAVE been working in a company from 1987. I was recruited direct and hold visa No. 18. I haven't signed any contract, my ID card shows that I can stay for two years. When my ID card expired, it was renewed for another two years. I did not sign any contract. My Civil ID expires in March 1991. Now, I am planning to go home in December, and probably I won't come back. I want to know if I am entitled to any benefit? If so, am I entitled to four months vacation pay? What other benefits can I get?

See

YOU are not entitled to receive any end of contract indemnity as you have not completed five years service. You are on an 'unlimited contract'. If you got a two years visa or identity card, it doesn't mean you hold a limited contract.

About your vacation pay, if you did not take annual leave in the last few years, you are entitled to 15 working days per year, according to the law. You can calculate the number of days vacation taken, and claim payment for unavailable annual leave.

I HAVE been working in Kuwait for the last 10 years. My wife came to Kuwait six months ago on visa No. 20. She is working for a Kuwaiti family during the day and lives with me. At present, she is pregnant. I asked the sponsor if there was any problem at the time of delivery and he told me there is no problem. Is it true? After the baby is born, is there any problem for the child or any type of fine in Kuwait?

Can the new born baby and mother stay in Kuwait for another two years? What document does the ministry require while going to the native country?

D. Demello

ACTUALLY, there is no problem in delivering the baby in a hospital in Kuwait. Any person seeking medical treatment is given such a facility by public hospitals.

The problem will occur once you want to get a residence for the infant. As the mother holds Article 20 visa, you are not

eligible to sponsor the child even if you — the husband — hold Article 18 visa. This is not permissible by the residence law.

If a mother holding No. 20 visa gives birth to a child, the law says that both mother and child must be sent back as the child cannot get a residence permit. Alternatively, you can make arrangements to repatriate the infant to your country.

I WORKED with a company from 1983 to April 1990. The company's agency was sold to another company and I was told to work with the latter company. As instructed, I started working with the latter company. My residence is in progress. Until today, I have not been given my termination letter or notice from my first company, neither have I resigned. I would like to know what or how will I be paid my indemnity, or when can I claim my settlement. Please advise.

L.T.C.

THIS means that you have been transferred to a new sponsor; who must sponsor you. As long as the transfer is by the order of the first company, and they told you to do so, they must pay you all the benefits. Or if the new sponsor has signed a letter giving the undertaking that he will pay all your benefits for the past period, from the date of employment to the date of final ending of contract, then the present sponsor will pay the gratuity.

I AM a Filipino working as a domestic helper since 1986 on visa No. 18. Now I want to work in a shop. What can I do to transfer my visa No. 18? Do I need to leave the country? I have been working for the same employer. Can visa No. 20 be transferred to No. 18? Please advise.

I. Balamay

YOU have contradicted yourself in the letter. Probably, you mean you hold No. 20 visa. If this is the case, then there is no way to seek a transfer from No. 20 to No. 18. It is prohibited.

People holding No. 20 visa are not covered by the Kuwaiti Labour law; therefore, you do not have to take the three years limit into consideration. And visa No. 20 is not transferable to No. 18.

Indian woman gets 5 years for torturing her maid

AN Indian woman who mercilessly beat and tortured her Indian housemaid was sentenced to five years in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that the maid, after a series of desperate attempts to escape from her employer's house, jumped off the balcony into the garbage container. There she remained till the early morning where she was discovered by the workers of the municipal garbage collecting van.

The maid told her pitiful tale of woe to the police and was referred to the coroner for examination. Medical reports attested to bone fracture, burns in different locations on her body as well as marks of physical torture.

The coroner's report estimates the percentage of disability at 17 per cent.

In court the "hapless victim" told the judge how her employer used to pour boiling water on her naked body, tread on her and stab her with a knife in different parts of her body. The skinny employee narrated with tears in her eyes how often she had tried to escape and ultimately in despair jumped out of the balcony.

Smugglers caught:

One of the border patrols at Al Abraq Centre seized a car which attempted to enter into the country illegally. The car was carrying 35 cartons and 201 bottles of liquor. The driver and liquor were referred to the relevant authorities.

Accidents: 13 road accidents were reported in Kuwait during the last 24 hours. Five of these accidents were reported in the Capital, five at Alhamdi and three in Jahra governorates. 6 people were injured in these accidents.

Car mishap: A 4-year-old non-Kuwaiti boy Mishaal N. fell out of his father's car while in motion in Jahra through the back door. The child fell on the road and was knocked down by another car. He was injured in several places and was taken to Jahra hospital.

NEWS IN BRIEF

National Council patronage: HH the Amir will patronise the inauguration ceremony of the first term of the National Council today morning. (Kuna)

89,738 people leave: The number of passengers leaving the country via the International Airport during the Eid holiday reached 89,738, according to statistics released here yesterday.

The statistics bulletin, issued by the General Administration for Civil Aviation, noted that the average number of departures daily in the period June 27 to July 6 was 8,974.

It added that departures via Terminal 2 were almost double those departing through Terminal 1 at a rate of 66.53 to 33.47 per cent.

Terminal 2 is allocated to Kuwait Airways, Gulf and a number of European airlines while Terminal 1 is used by Arab, Asian and other European air companies. (Kuna)

Glazed windshields prohibited: The Director General of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem has said that the use of colour glazing for wind-shields and windows of cars is a violation punishable by the law.

He told a local daily that this phenomenon has become very common lately and that the GTD has taken all necessary measures against the violators and enforced appropriate penalties against them.

He said that the GTD will show no leniency to violators and no exceptions will be made, and that instructions were given to local car agents not to import cars with original colour glazing.

He urged all drivers to co-operate with the GTD in this respect to cut down on accidents caused by colour glazing.

Phone bill requests: The Communications Ministry has urged telephone subscribers who want to abandon their telephone lines to others to submit their demands to get special telephone bills at least one week before giving up the line. One week period for the bill will be sufficient to achieve formalities, the ministry stated. Special telephone bills will be issued four days after date of cutting off services it added.

Police academy admissions: General Director of the General Police Academy Brigadier Khaled Al Munayes has said that this year new students will be allowed to register at the academy.

In a statement made to a local daily he added that the registration system will incorporate the use of computers.

Brigadier Munayes pointed out that registration at the academy began as of yesterday to accept secondary certificate graduates interested in joining the academy. He stated that students interested in admission to the academy should at least attain a 60 per cent grade.

Mubarak carries out 6,418 ops in 1989

DIRECTOR of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Health, Faisal Al Dousari has said that Mubarak Kabeer Hospital has carried out a total of 6,418 surgeries during the last year. He pointed out that the total number of patients who visited the outpatient clinic at the hospital amounted to 111,359. A total of 19,311 patients were admitted to the hospital for treatment.

He pointed out that Mubarak Hospital is the first educational hospital in Kuwait in addition to being the hospital of Hawalli Health Area. He added that the hospital consists of all specialties but the maternity and skin diseases section.

He stressed that the ministry has completed a study for the expansion of the hospital and pointed out that new sections which are not available presently will be added, particularly a maternity section for the service of residents at Hawalli Governorate.

He indicated that the hospital currently capacitates a total of 524 beds with a total of 286 doctors, 24 specialists, 272 technicians and 525 nurses.

He said that the hospital serves Hawalli Governorate through fifteen centres. A total of 523,985 residents are registered under Hawalli Health Area.

Tourists opt for Sharjah in the UAE

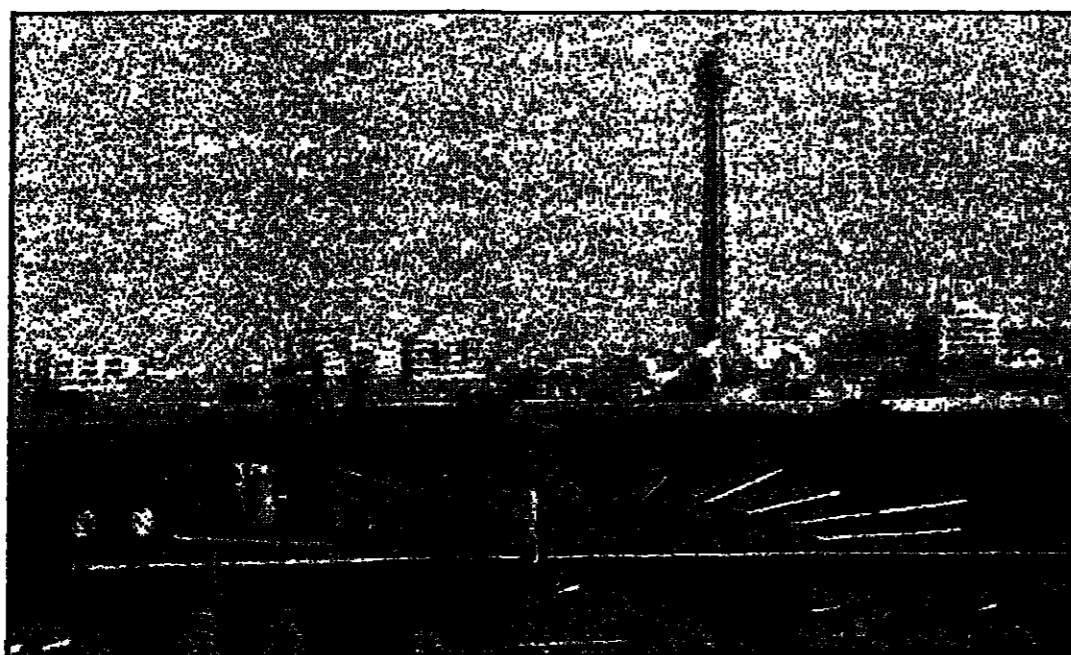
MILES of clean sandy beaches, consistently warm weather and competitively priced goods in the market provide the perfect setting for a holiday. Hotel prices too are very competitive — a holiday costs significantly less than anywhere else in the region. The more energetic can watch cricket and camel racing or take part in water sports and horse riding. The really adventurous can join a safari, visiting the desert hinterland and the mountains which eventually give way to the beautiful resort of Khor Fakkan on the Indian Ocean.

Travel agents are optimistic about prospects. "Visitors want to see something of the culture. They want to go shopping. Gold, carpets and electronic goods are all half-price," says Jager Rasmussen, general manager of Orient Tours.

According to Mary Anne Boyers, manager of Gulf Ventures in Dubai, "Sharjah is a bustling city, with a lovely beach front, good shopping and competitive prices." The city of Sharjah is a spectacular mixture of old seafaring town and modern Islamic architecture. Green parks, elaborately designed roundabouts and the tree-lined Khalid lagoon welcome the tourist, a testament to the ruling family's concern about the environment.

The acres of green, topped by tropical flowers, provide a backdrop to the King Faisal Mosque, the largest in the UAE. There are four five-star hotels overlooking the beaches, at prices that are unmatched anywhere in the region.

The Central Market, opened in 1978, is regarded as one of the most beautiful buildings in the



View of Sharjah

Middle East, and its 600 shops contain some unmatched bargains. Iranian carpets are on sale for only Dh 200. There are very competitive prices for gold and electrical goods, which are particularly popular with East European and Asian visitors, who visit Sharjah for the bargains rather than the sight-seeing.

Souqs

In the evening, visit the fish market, a noisy bustling scene in the shadow of a port so clean that gulls can be seen diving for fish within yards of large container vessels. More bargains are available at the new Al Majarrah souq and at Khor Fakkan, which is built along the same lines as the main market in Sharjah.

Khor Fakkan, with its elegantly curved bay and white sandy beaches, is probably the most relaxing resort in the UAE. The peace is only broken by the port at the far end of the bay as fishermen prepare for the night's work.

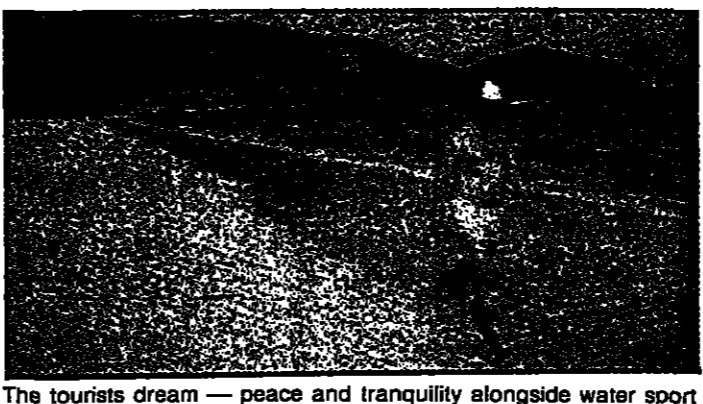
One of the most popular trips is a desert safari, while most tourists go out in three or four-car groups, one of the more extraordinary sights earlier this year was a convoy of 150 West Germans heading into the mountains.

"Desert safaris are very popular, especially the sunset barbecue in a traditional tent. With four-wheel drive vehicles you can go off the main roads and visit the wadis. Those who go on the overnight safari will

remember it for a long time," says Rasmussen.

As Sharjah embarks on a marketing campaign to make the world aware of what it has to offer, it will become even more popular. "We have visited European countries and told them what Sharjah has to offer," says Mohammed Al Hajri, Sharjah's director of tourism. Al Hajri is confident that the growth in the number of visitors, which rose to 19,000 last year compared with 13,000 in 1988, will continue. "In January we had a record 4,700 visitors and we expect the figure for this year to exceed 30,000 for the first time," he says.

An increasing number of



The tourists dream — peace and tranquility alongside water sport facilities.



visitors are arriving by charter flight, providing a significant boost to business at Sharjah airport. Most come from West Europe and the Far East with a growing number of Asians and East Europeans attracted by the cheap goods as much as the sights.

Sharjah is already well endowed with five-star hotels — it has the Continental, International and Grand in Sharjah City, and the Oceanic in Khor Fakkan — but it is prepared to

Kuwait hails signs of Gulf rapprochement

KUWAIT, July 8, (Kuna): Kuwait today renewed its blessings to the signs of rapprochement between the two Muslim neighbours, Iraq and Iran.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi said following the weekly cabinet session, that the Gulf region is in need of stability "and we will be pleased at any kind of rapprochement and we wish that this sincere desire continues by both sides toward ending the crisis."

Al Awadhi said that HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who presided over the session, briefed the cabinet on Wednesday's visit to the country by Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto. The council welcomed the ranking guest and hoped that her visit would bolster bilateral relations.

The cabinet also listened to a report by Health Minister Abdul Wahab Al Fouzan on the condition of the Kuwaiti pilgrims who returned home from Saudi Arabia, following the tragic accident which took place a few days ago at Al Moessem pedestrian tunnel in Mina.

Expressing its deep grief at the regrettable incident, the cabinet sent its condolences to the kingdom and also commended Saudi efforts on providing all the needed facilities for the pilgrims. The council also discussed all aspects relating to the proposals of HH the Crown Prince and Premier on the priorities of the newly-formed government in the future.

Regarding the issue of censorship on newspapers, the cabinet decided to commission the infor-

mation minister with preparing a comprehensive report, which lays down the basis for the press work within the framework of national interest and unity.

For his part, Oil Minister Dr Rashed Al Ameri briefed the council on his talks with the Algerian oil minister and his Indonesian counterpart in Algiers recently.

Computer course

THE society service and continuous education department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training is receiving applications for enrolment in a computer programme for Kuwaiti children in the age group of eight to twelve years. Registration will continue till Wednesday July 11th, 1990 at the department's premise at Dasmann Complex in the Sharq Area from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Classes which will commence on 14.7.1990 will be conducted thrice weekly and will be for a total duration of one month. These classes will be conducted at the commercial studies faculty for girls in Hawalli.

Meanwhile, registration of applicants at the Communications and Air Navigation Centre of the authority will begin on Saturday July 14 and will close in five days.

Registration is restricted to Kuwaitis who hold the Intermediate School Certificate. Applicants will be enrolled in different training courses which would qualify them to work as telephone exchange operators, maintain telephones and intercom sets and work as assistant cable technicians.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MERIT and good breeding will make their way everywhere — Lord Chesterfield, English statesman (1694-1773).

Delegates erect facade of unity

28th party congress

MOSCOW, (AP): This one was supposed to be different. According to traditionalists and performers alike, the 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party would be a bitter struggle for the future of the party. But halfway through their agenda, the nearly 4,700 delegates meeting in the Kremlin have been able to do little more than erect a facade of unity on a foundation of words rather than action.

The most powerful assembly of the most powerful organisation in Soviet society appears dispirited and near ideological bankruptcy. In the words of Politburo member Alexander N. Yakovlev: "The party of the revolutionary idea has turned into the party of power."

Soviet society, taking advantage of the changes under Mikhail S. Gorbachev, will pursue reforms no matter what course the party chooses, Yakovlev said.

But the new ideas, however modest, are being rejected by the congress.

Confused

Rank-and-file delegates are confused. New faces are certain to appear in the party leadership, but it is far from certain that personnel changes will be enough to bolster the party's sagging authority. The congress sharpened the rhetoric Soviets first heard at a party conference two years ago and at the governmental Congress of People's Deputies last year.

Then, it was breath of freedom to watch the verbal duels between reformer Boris N. Yeltsin and more traditional Yegor K. Ligachev. Live broadcasts were curtailed because people were watching instead of working.

In March, looking ahead to the congress, Ligachev said it would mean "the fixing of boundaries, and the cleansing from the party of all those who are destroying it, who are engaging in a factional, opposition struggle and who are participating in anti-socialist movements."

On Friday, Yeltsin warned that the party could not simply discard those Ligachev considered troublemakers. He said they would demand their share of the party's property, or that the property be nationalised.

Just as he has for years, Gorbachev continued to steer a middle course, successfully avoiding the open split that had been promised by radical delegates. "Consolidation" was one of the congress buzzwords, but it seemed to apply to preserving the party rather than forging new policies.

Delegates seemed subdued rather than energised by months of buildup. The lack of anything new drove some party members to despair.

Opening

On the opening day of the congress, Rafael Belyakov, a composer and party official in the city of Kazan, announced he was quitting the party. "I did not wait until the end of the 28th congress, since I was sure that nothing is changing," the Postfactum news service quoted him as saying.

Delegate Yuri Boldyrev from Leningrad urged nationalisation of the party's property on the first day of the congress and said 57 per cent of the active party constituents in his district agreed with him. But he said 40 per cent of the district party members did not bother to take part in elections to the congress, apparently out of apathy.

"For me, nothing has been explained, nothing is happening, just as we predicted," said Vyacheslav Shostakovsky, a leader of the Democratic Platform reform group. Group members decided to quit the party and ask for a share of its assets after the congress.

The modest new ideas presented at the congress have been shot down.

Gorbachev lost a bid to rename the party leader's post chairman rather than general secretary, and add two deputies. He said it was more likely that the congress would add one deputy.

Expand

He also wanted to expand the Politburo in a move that would tend to diffuse power, but he said it was likely the body would remain as it is.

Several Politburo members said they would step down, and party leaders said 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the members of the policy-making Central Committee might be changed.

It was unclear whether that would make much of a difference. Gorbachev already has replaced most of the Politburo and retired many old members of the Central Committee with little effect.

Gorbachev's position as party leader was secure. Despite a barrage of criticism, neither traditionalists nor reformers could find another acceptable candidate.

When delegates showed a burst of independence, unthinkable in previous congresses, by declaring that they would give each Politburo member a separate evaluation, Gorbachev quickly cowed them with a warning they would split the party.

For those watching from the outside, it hardly mattered. "I don't think there's any point to struggle with the Soviet Communist Party," said reform-minded historian Yuri Afanasiev, who quit the party two months before the congress. "It is leaving the stage, it is simply falling apart."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1540 — Marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne of Cleves is annulled by convocations of Canterbury and York.
1609 — Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II is forced to grant charter permitting freedom of religion in Bohemia.
1686 — League of Augsburg is formed between Holy Roman Empire, Spain, Sweden, Saxony, the Palatinate and Brandenburg against France's King Louis XIV.
1746 — French fleet arrives at Pondicherry in India.
1816 — Independence of united provinces of La Plata (Argentina) from Spain is declared.
1882 — Britain's Royal Navy bombards Alexandria, Egypt.
1915 — German forces in South West Africa surrender to South Africans under Louis Botha.
1925 — Revolution breaks out in Ecuador.
1944 — Allied forces take Caen, France, from Germans in World War II.
1947 — Engagement of England's Princess Elizabeth to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten is announced.
1963 — Agreement is signed to create federation of Malaysia, uniting Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo.
1971 — Last US base guarding demilitarized zone in Vietnam is turned over to South Vietnamese troops.
1976 — Uganda calls on UN Security Council to condemn Israel in strongest terms for raid on Entebbe airport to rescue hostages held by Pro-Palestinian hijackers.
1987 — At least 50 passengers are killed when wall of water washes two cars of train into monsoon-swollen river in India's Andhra Pradesh state.



Yemeni craftsmen still ply their trade as they have for 2000 years. (WNL)

Yemen becomes one again

East bloc could draw a lesson

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK, (WNL): Months before the two Germanys started talking about unification, two Arab states — former bitter enemies — were quietly taking steps to do just that, burying the hatchet and, in the case of South Yemen, discarding the hard-line Marxist ideology that made this country the only communist Arab nation.

Watching this process initiated many months ago and that culminated in the official creation of one Yemen in May, an acute observer might have recognized an early version of the changes that were to alter so dramatically the so-called East bloc since last winter. Now there might still be a lesson to be drawn from the meshing of North and South Yemen, despite all odds and in the face of deep social, political and economical differences.

When the Islamic, pro-Western, Arab Republic of (North) Yemen and the Marxist, secular People's Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen officially announced the unification of their two countries on May 21, political analysts were surprised at the speed with which the deal was made, ahead of schedule, in fact. Both nations have always considered the border between them, drawn by the British and the Ottomans in 1904, as artificially imposed, yet in their long history the two have rarely been ruled as a single entity, and previous attempts at unifying failed. This time several new factors intervened.

Nationalism

"The urge for unity has always been there and there has always been a genuine sense of Yemeni identity and nationalism. The issue of unity was popular on both sides of the border," commented Gregory Gause, assistant director of the Middle East Institute at New York's Columbia University. "The difference this time, is that past attempts (in 1972 and 1976) came as the result of military confrontation and one side getting the upper hand," added Gause, an expert on Yemen who teaches political science.

Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh who has ruled North Yemen for 12 years was named president of the new Republic of Yemen, while his South Yemeni counterpart Ali Salem Al Beid, secretary-general of the Socialist Party, serves as vice-president. Sana'a, the former capital of the North is now the capital of the new state, while the southern capital of Aden — one of the busiest harbours in the world during the 1950s — is to be the country's commercial centre. The nation will have full control of the strategic Straits of Bab Al Mandab which form the entrance from the Indian Ocean into the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

Gause and other experts agree that deep changes in the Soviet Union's foreign policy and its decreasing support for allies around the world, including South Yemen, were a key factor in the unification process. "If the Soviets really wanted to stay in South Yemen and wanted to do a lot there, we would not have seen this unity," said Gause.

Soviet presence, military and otherwise, in South Yemen had decreased steadily since 1986, when a civil war killed an estimated 10,000 people and caused an outpouring of refugees into the North. Under a friendship agreement the Soviets maintained up to 18,000 troops in the country and had built air, radar and naval stations. South Yemen also was home to a squadron of the Soviet Navy and air and missile units. In addition, East German advisers set up a feared secret police force. Repression and the ban of all religious activities — including the closure of hundreds of mosques — stifled dissent, but the regime sent an estimated 40,000 Yemenis to scores of concentration camps.

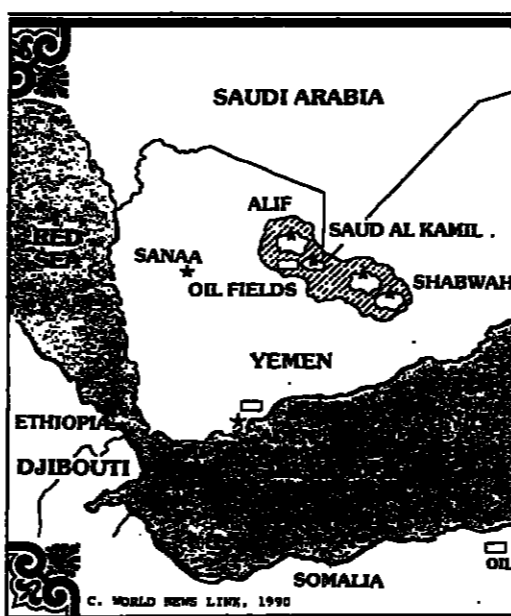
"The USSR has had a large naval and air facility. It is the anchor of the Soviet naval route in the Indian ocean, but with the changes in the USSR, in its priorities and military strategy, I am not sure it is still a major consideration," Gause said. Although the USSR is likely to want to retain some port rights in Aden, one of its major activities there to supply the besieged communist regime of Col Mengistu in nearby Ethiopia — has already slowed to a trickle. Meanwhile, most East German and Cuban military advisers have left, and about 2000 Soviet advisers remain.

Merging

Having celebrated with enthusiasm the merging of their countries, Yemenis now face the serious challenge of smoothing over fundamental differences between the secular South — a poor country of 2 million and the more prosperous North with its

population of 9 million and its strong religious tradition. A progressive South Yemeni leader, Ali Nasser Mohammed who was ousted by a violent coup in 1986, had initiated a series of economic reforms to free-up a certain amount of private enterprise in agriculture and fishing, but his successor returned the country to the shackles of a centrally planned socialist economy with the state in almost total control of a moribund system.

Yet the South is to be the economic focus of the new Republic of Yemen with the port of Aden as its



A South Yemen youth. (WNL)

core. "There is talk of restoring Aden as a free port," said Gause "but major refurbishment and capital improvements are needed."

"Aden could become like Hong Kong," noted John Mandaville, professor of Middle Eastern his-

tory at Portland State University and president of the American Institute of Yemeni Studies, Mandaville, who recently returned from Yemen, said Aden is drawing many potential investors. "There is a stampede of people coming down from the North to buy up shops and businesses. The three major companies that dominate the corporate world in the North are run and owned by people originally from the South. They will come back," he added.

The recent discovery of oil reserves estimated at 2 billion barrels in the area of the former border between the two Yemenis bodes well for the future. According to World Bank figures, the average income for 1988 in North Yemen was \$650 a year; in the South it was \$430. Experts say it will take two years before a major unified economic policy is forged. "We will see a Yemen that conducts a fairly united policy in terms of the outside world, but economically and politically, I think we will see the continuation of two pretty different systems for a while," said Gause.

Because of its somewhat isolated position, Yemen is unlikely to benefit from the same kind of large-scale investments from abroad promised to Eastern European nations, "but, we can hope that there will be more investment from Yemenis abroad who have kept their earnings out of the formal economy," Gause noted. Though it is impossible to estimate the earnings of the hundreds of thousands of Yemenis who work mostly in the neighbouring oil-rich Arab states, Gause added that if the country appears stable, this could turn into a promising source of funds.

System

Drawing up a new political system is already under way; both sides have merged their armed forces and have agreed to operate under a constitution jointly drafted in an earlier attempt at unification.

In the North, President Saleh had allowed some political opposition, but he has faced mounting pressure from Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the secular ways of the South and from fractious tribal leaders still ruling in remote areas. How much political representation, if any, the fundamentalists, tribal leaders and other opposition forces in both the North and South will get depends on how the general elections, scheduled for 1992, are held. "It will be a much more open political atmosphere than it has ever been in the past... It has been agreed that there will be more political pluralism," Gause said.

Yemen will probably emerge as a new force in the region, if only because of the size of its population. "A united Yemen is more populous than Saudi Arabia and if it can develop its resources, even if it cannot be as wealthy, it can present itself as an alternative pole of power in the (Arab) peninsula," Gause said. Having recently completed a book on relations between Saudi Arabia and the two Yemenis, Gause believes that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be less wary of a united Yemen now that Soviet influence has receded in the South.

In any case, Yemen has a lot of problems to tackle before it can flex some political muscle, Gause said. Priorities include building roads, modernizing means of communications, and educating a population that shows a high ratio of illiteracy.

Although North Yemen clearly led the way in the unification process, southerners are clearly eager for a change. "There has been a total collapse of faith in the system since the 1986 coup," Mandaville said, "people are sick to death of the economic situation." But he warned, "It is going to be chaotic for a while, there is not enough skilled middle management."

Commented an Arab diplomat in Aden: "The most important thing is that people (here) no longer live in fear."

Arab officials have generally welcomed the unification. A senior Egyptian diplomat at the United Nations noted: "It was well overdue. It is a new symbol of the growing trend among Arabs to get together." He added that this would not alter the make-up of the Arab Co-operation Council set up in February 1989 between North Yemen, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

"Unlike any other country of the region, Yemen is a natural nation state, it is historically and culturally homogenous," concluded Mandaville. "Despite numerous practical difficulties, the re-uniting of the Yemeni family after centuries can only be seen as a positive step opening the way for a new era of prosperity and harmony."

US-Israel

Disagreements more profound

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Israel's new Foreign Minister, David Levy, may not know English. But he would have to bury his head in the sand not to hear the word from Washington these days.

Taxed by an Israeli newspaper interviewer who said the United States was treating his government with "public contempt and insults," Levy bridled.

"I am certainly aware of this," he said, making no attempt to gloss over the perilous state of Israel's most important foreign relationship. "I am not an ostrich."

Levy has now been invited to meet US Secretary of State James Baker in Paris this month, although he recently suffered a mild heart attack and is waiting for medical clearance before committing himself.

Telephone

Baker topped all previous thrusts with a public suggestion last month that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should telephone when he gets serious about making peace with Israel's Arab neighbours.

Such biting remarks seem to show that US-Israeli differences go much deeper than one-issue arguments that ruffled relations in the past.

"People resort to letters and news conferences when more effective means of communication are not pursued," said Shai Feldman of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies. "We would be much better off to sit down and find new common ground."

Diplomacy between the two countries recently has centred on a letter from Shamir explaining his position.

Israeli officials said they hoped it would improve relations, but the Americans made clear they found little positive in it.

"I'm worried the crisis is much more serious, with much more serious implications for the infrastructure of the relationship," Feldman told Reuters.

An atmosphere of distrust has emerged, underlined by an obvious lack of rapport between Shamir and US President George Bush.

Alienated

Shamir's new right-wing government has also alienated many of the American Jews who are a vital factor in ensuring US support.

Feldman believes before the military alliance was strengthened in the 1980s, the countries had grown close because they felt they shared values such as commitments to democracy and human rights.

"In a sense there has been a change in the classical roles," Feldman said. "Many people in Washington are perceiving Israel as a strategic asset but there are increasing questions about the values held by Israel."

Behind the specific disagreements over terms for convening Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo that dominate recent diplomacy are much more fundamental doubts about Israeli intentions. Thirty-one months of news about Israeli efforts to suppress the Palestinian revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip erased what remained in Americans' minds of Israel's valuable image as the underdog of the Middle East conflict.

Although the choice of a foreign minister with a linguistic disadvantage surprised many, the policies Levy, a French speaker, espouses will be far more important than the language he uses to express them.

Deteriorate

"To be successful as foreign minister he has to make sure that the relationship with the United States and the American Jewish community does not deteriorate," Feldman said.

The record so far is not reassuring. Levy was one of the "constraints ministers" in the previous government who opposed even Shamir's slow steps towards peace talks with Palestinians.

"We are trying," Levy countered when asked a week ago by the Israeli newspaper interviewer about US doubts over Israel's commitment to peace.

"But he added: 'We are not going to grovel before the United States and crawl to it.'

Regardless of the tough talk, Levy and other Israelis are watching Washington nervously. Bush could abandon Middle East peace efforts, could turn to an international conference where Israel would feel greater isolation or could try once more by itself to push Israel into talks with the Palestinians.

A decision may be delayed until after a first meeting of Levy and Baker, which could take place in Paris on July 18 or 19.

Israelis say Baker's invitation address Levy as "a problem solver," but is delay in issuing it seemed an ominous hint of the White House attitude.

QUOTE ME

"I know him blind. I don't have to watch him." — Boris Becker, when asked whether he scouted Stefan Edberg's semifinal victory over Ivan Lendl. Sunday's final will be the 24th match between Becker and Edberg.

"In the first round, there is too much incentive to play for draws. When I was a boy, I remember scores of 3-2 and teams with five attackers and two defenders. Now the game is too scientific. I think that is a problem that may only be solved by letting more Cameroons play, or the past teams from Brazil, to loosen things up." — Dr Henry Kissinger on what needs to be done to make the first round of the World Cup more interesting.

"It's a business (now), it's how much money can you make and how fast can you make it." — 81-year-old Fred Perry, who as an amateur won all four Grand Slam singles titles, including three Wimbledon crowns, in 1934-36.

"With this declaration, Slovenia has run counter to the Yugoslav constitution and has claimed the right to unilaterally change... relations within the Yugoslav Federation." — The Yugoslav President asking Slovenia to annul its independence declaration.

"I seen a big flash cross in front of my eyes. I looked over to my left and I saw a big ball of fire... it looked to me like a tank run off, you know, like a rocket just took off." — Mike Zuehl, a truck driver who witnessed the explosion at a chemical plant in Texas.

Cop stabbed in old Jerusalem

Arab-Jewish tension mounts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 8. (Agencies): An Israeli policeman was stabbed and seriously wounded near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre today as Arab-Jewish tension increased. The attack in the teeming Arab market of the old city was the latest in a series of stabbings and bombings in the holy city over the past two months following Israel's refusal to accept a US call for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Witnesses said one of two policemen patrolling the narrow alleys crowded with shoppers was stabbed in the back by an unidentified assailant and collapsed inside the door of the church among a throng of tourists. The wounded man, assisted by the other policeman and with a knife protruding from his back, had run the short distance along a cobbled road to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most sacred site in Christianity. The wounded policeman, identified as Moshe Tadjil, a 24-year-old recruit from Maale Adumim suburb in



An Israeli border policeman (left) pushes people out of the path of an ambulance crew yesterday carrying a stabbed police officer. The officer was wounded in the back by an Arab assailant next to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Police detained over a dozen Arab suspects in a search for the attacker. (Reuters wirephoto)

the occupied West Bank, was given first aid before being transferred to hospital. His condition was described as moderate. Police sealed exits from the walled city and rounded up young Palestinians for questioning.

Last month a Jewish religious student was stabbed in the old city and police killed two Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

"It's part of an attempt that we've had in the last few months against public order," Police Minister Ronni Milo said while visiting the scene of stabbing.

"We see this with the utmost gravity... we will not allow attacks on policemen, as we will not allow attacks on civilians," he said.

Surrounded by a dozen heavily armed police, Milo said Jerusalem remained a relatively safe city by international standards.

Arabs said the spate of recent attacks reflected continuing tension of the 31-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation rather than a sudden escalation.

An explosive device went off in the Israeli Jewish settlement of Betah Tekfa near Tel Aviv this morning, Radio Israel reported.

The broadcast, monitored by Kuna, said no injuries were reported and it made no mention of damage.

It added that explosives experts searched the area for other potential bombs after police sealed off the explosion site.

Israeli War Minister Moshe Arens will hold within the fortnight a series of talks with his top aides on imposing tougher measures against stone-throwers in the occupied lands, Israeli radio said.

The radio quoted public prosecutor Amnon Strasbanov, as saying that Arens and security officials will discuss the issue of stone throwers elaborately, adding that the leadership and judicial system should treat stone throwers with an extra dose of force.

Security sources said that the Israeli army had begun implementing the new regulations increasing the number of troops in the West Bank.

Israel reopened a Palestinian vocational college in Abu Dis in the West Bank, with 250 students, as part of a plan to reopen colleges shut during the uprising as hotbeds of unrest.

Israel risks alienation of Jews

American leader sounds word of caution to Tel Aviv

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 8. (Reuters): An American Jewish leader warned Israel yesterday that its policy of no territorial compromise would alienate world Jewry and the American government.

Henry Siegman, director of the American Jewish Congress, told Israel Television:

"If the policy of this government is going to be, as it seems to be, that there will be no territorial compromise and they are going to hold on to all of the territories

permanently that situation does not represent a peace policy.

"That will lead eventually not just to the alienation of the US administration but I think of world Jewry."

The new rightwing government believes Israel has a historic right to the territories which were part of the Biblical land of Israel. It also justifies Israeli rule for security reasons.

"People understand that this is a government that has a coherent consistent policy, under no circumstances any

territorial compromise," Siegman said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to open the first-ever peace talks with Palestinians proposed by US Secretary of State James Baker has brought US-Israeli relations to their lowest point in eight years.

The 30-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories has also damaged Israel's standing with Americans.

Siegman said Speaker Tom Foley of the US House of Representatives recently

warned Jewish leaders that "the relationship is in the process of being undone."

The US is Israel's closest ally, providing some \$3 billion a year in aid. American Jews play an essential role in lobbying the government to support Israel and by raising money for the Jewish state.

"If Israel is in the West Bank because it wants to be there, because it is its policy, that in the long run American Jewry and world Jewry will simply not understand, will not sympathise with and will not support," Siegman said.



Lebanese children play yesterday near a car destroyed during the heavy clashes between Palestinian factions and a Lebanese local group in the southern port city of Sidon. Two people were killed and 17 wounded in the fighting. (Reuters wirephoto)

2 killed in Sidon street battles

SIDON, July 8. (AP): Palestinian fundamentalists fought an eight-hour street battle with Lebanese Sunni Muslim militia of the Nasserite Popular Organisation. Police said today two people were killed and 21 wounded.

They said the clashes between the Ansarallah, a newly founded Palestinian faction, and the Nasserites were halted by informal ceasefire at 1 am (2330 GMT) today.

Ansarallah, Arabic for God's partisans, comprises Muslim extremists from the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein El Hilweh, on the outskirts of the southern port city. Ansarallah is allied with Hamas, the Palestinian resistance group based in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

The Nasserites, led by Mustafa Saad, an engineer, are dominant militia in Sunni Sidon. They maintain close ties with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation, whose efforts to find peace with Israel have been openly criticised by Hamas.

A police spokesman in Sidon, 40 kms (25 miles) south of Beirut, said automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars were deployed in the overnight battle.

It started when a Nasserite checkpoint near Ein El Hilweh's northern entrance prevented five armed members of Ansarallah from entering the city, the police said.

"The Ansarallahs opened fire and the NPO militiamen responded in kind and each side sent reinforcements to the areas," said the spokesman who cannot be named in line with regulations.

He said both sides shelled each other's positions with 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. Scores of rounds crashed in Ein El Hilweh and in the city.

The two killed were both civilian men. One was a Palestinian from the camp and the other a Lebanese from Sidon. The wounded included 10 Palestinian combatants, nine Nasserites and two civilians.

Sidon-based reporters said four houses were set ablaze in the area of the clashes. About 50 apartments were destroyed.

Burned out cars and glass shards from broken windows littered the streets of Sidon, provincial capital of south Lebanon and the country's third-largest city.

The battle erupted after a verbal assault by the PLO against Hamas, accusing it of playing into Israel's hands.

The weekly Palestine Al Thawra magazine, mouthpiece of the PLO, launched the attack against Hamas in a commentary in its latest edition.

The article accused Hamas of trying to "break away from the rules and regulations of the (Palestinian) home."

Hamas has been challenging the pro-PLO underground command of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Levy to meet Baker soon

Peace moves

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 8. (AP): Foreign Minister David Levy expects to meet US Secretary of State James Baker III "as soon as possible" to discuss Middle East peace moves.

The remarks came in response to an invitation by Baker for talks conveyed Thursday by Levy by US Ambassador to Israel, William Brown.

The Moroccan-born Levy is number two behind Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in the rightwing Likud Bloc. He is Israel's first foreign minister born in an Arab country.

Baker's message followed a lengthy letter by Shamir to US President George Bush a week ago, in which he suggested Israel was ready to reopen discussion about choosing Palestinian negotiators for peace talks.

Baker has sought for months to arrange Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, but his efforts have been deadlocked over Israel's insistence on excluding the PLO from talks.

Levy's spokeswoman Aliza Goren said no date has been set

for a meeting with Baker, because Levy, 52, is still convalescing from a mild heart attack he suffered last month.

Another ministry official speaking on condition of anonymity said of Baker's message, "it was very warm letter."

Baker referred to Levy as a "problem-solver," and said he had read a lot about him and is looking for a meeting with him soon," the official added. "We hope the meeting will take place as soon as possible."

"I believe this invitation, indicates a certain intent by the (US) administration to renew the process of contacts which may lead eventually to negotiations, something that all of us are very much interested in," Health Minister Ehud Olmert, who is close to Shamir, said of Baker's letter to Israel Radio.

But the Yediot Ahronot daily reported today that Bush sent an "impatient" message to Shamir last week, asking why Israel objected to including Palestinians deported by Israel and residents of Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem as delegates in peace talks.

'Supergun' W. German firms built Iraq factory

BONN, July 8. (Reuters): Leading West German firms helped to build a weapons factory where Iraq's "supergun" was to be made, Der Spiegel news magazine said yesterday.

The Hamburg-based weekly said "confiscated documents" showed the factory near Baghdad was designed to produce guns and experts feared it was also where a cannon some 150 metres (yards) long with a range of 1,000 km (600 miles) was to be built.

Britain and other West European countries have confiscated shipments suspected of being parts of an Iraqi supergun which could hit Israel.

Der Spiegel, in a report ahead of tomorrow's publication, said prosecutors had clear evidence that several leading West German steel and construction firms helped to build the plant.

The magazine named several companies it said were involved.

Shahal bids to lead Labour Party

Seeks deal with US on peace

TEL AVIV, July 8. (Reuters): Former Energy Minister Moshe Shahal declared his candidacy to lead Israel's troubled Labour Party today, saying he would seek agreement with the United States on peace with Palestinians.

Shahal, an Iraqi-born lawyer and protégé of party leader Shimon Peres, said he presented the younger generation which was ready to change the party's course.

But at 56, Shahal lacks the popularity of Peres, 66, and former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, 68, who recently challenged Peres for the party leadership.

"The Labour Party must sign a new strategic document between us and the United States that will determine three 'noes' — no returning to 1967 borders, no division of occupied Jerusalem... and no to the creation of a Palesti-

tinian state between us and Jordan," Shahal told reporters.

The United States is Israel's guardian ally, supplying \$3 billion a year in military and economic aid. Shahal said an agreement on the final aims of negotiations would give Israel confidence to begin peace talks.

Palestinians waging a 31-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are demanding an independent state. Israel captured the occupied territories in the 1967 Middle East war along with occupied east Jerusalem which it annexed.

Shahal's stance reflects Labour's traditional position in favour of trading some of the territories in return for peace. Labour opposes a Palestinian state and maintains Israel must control strategic areas in the West Bank for security's sake.

Iraq may legalise political parties, free press

BAGHDAD, July 8. (Reuters): Iraq has drawn up a draft of a more liberal constitution that would allow political parties other than the dominant Baath to emerge and give greater freedom to the press, officials said today.

They said they expected the revival of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Istiqlal (Independence) Party, one-time allies of the ruling Baath Party but banned 30 years ago.

The new constitution was prepared by the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) led by President Saddam Hussein and by Baath Party leaders.

Apart from the Baath, the only legal parties are two small Kurdish parties — a pro-government faction of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) and the Revolutionary Kurdish Party (RKP).

Baghdad offered an amnesty earlier this year to members of rebel groups seeking more autonomy for the country's three million Kurds, including the mainstream DPK and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. But leaders of the two parties did not take up the offer.

Another banned group is the Communist Party which joined the Baath Party, the NDP and Istiqlal

in toppling the monarchy and setting up a republic in 1958 but turned against the Baath in the early 1970s.

The draft constitution will be discussed by ministers and parliament and be published in the press before ratification by the RCC, the officials said.

Parliament Speaker Saadi Mahdi Saleh told reporters earlier this year that the new constitution will give greater press freedom.

Iraq has three state-run Arabic newspapers and an English daily along with one private daily representing the Kurdish minority.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Armed men steal explosives: Armed men stole 350 kgs (750 pounds) of explosives from a quarry in the western Algerian town of Tlemcen, the official news agency APS reported on Saturday.

It was the second such incident in a week. On Friday the local press reported 450 kgs (990 pounds) of explosives stolen from a dam site near Jigil in eastern Algeria.

APS said between 10 and 15 armed men raided the quarry in Tlemcen early Wednesday. A guard was wounded and another is missing. (Reuters)

FLN body meets to rebuild: The 268-strong central committee of Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) began a two-day session on Sunday to rebuild the party after its electoral defeat at the hands of Muslim fundamentalists.

President Chadli Benjedid was absent from the meeting, at which the old guard is expected to attack his reformist government, because he had left for an Organisation of African Unity summit in Addis Ababa.

The session is the first since the FLN, which ruled Algeria single-handedly since independence from France in 1962, came a poor second in local elections on June 12. It won 28 per cent of the vote, compared with 53 per cent for the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). (Reuters)

Powell arrives in Morocco: General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Morocco on Sunday at the start of an orientation tour of North Africa and the Middle East, a diplomatic source said.

The source said he had been invited by King Hassan to attend ceremonies marking the monarch's 61st birthday due to be celebrated in Rabat on Monday.

Velayati to visit Egypt Relations to improve

CAIRO, July 8. (AP): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Cairo soon and diplomatic relations between Iran and Egypt which have been severed for three years will improve, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The state-owned Al Messa newspaper reported in an unattributed story that Iran has sent Egypt a message of thanks for the supplies it sent following the earthquake which killed 40,000 people last month.

"I learned that Iran has sent a message to Egypt through Geneva, thanking it for its help sent to the victims of the earthquake. Special thanks were sent to President Hosni Mubarak for the message of condolences which he sent to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani," Al Messa's editor-in-chief Samir Ragab wrote in a front-page article.

Assad to visit Egypt next week

CAIRO, July 8. (Reuters): Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will visit Egypt next week for the first time since Cairo signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, a government official said today.

He said the two-day visit would begin on either July 15 or July 16. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Syria on May 2

the first by an Egyptian leader in 13 years, sealed a rift between the two countries that resulted from the late Anwar Sadat's peacemaking with Israel.

Poles invade Mideast

Low cost musicians

AMMAN, Jordan, July 8. (AP): The lights of Damascus twinkled through the windows of a French nightclub. British businessmen sipped Danish beer poured by Palestinian waiters. A singer warbled her way through "Georgia On My Mind."

The performer was Polish, of course. Poles may be struggling with economic troubles at home, but in the Middle East, musicians from the Eastern European nation are in high demand.

They seem to be everywhere. Playing Scottish music at a Burns night dinner in Jordan; hammering out rock favourites in Dubai saloons; playing chopin in Syrian piano bars.

In a Kuwait hotel steakhouse, a Polish band romped through an American classic. The stars at night are shining bright, deep in the heart of Texas.

The singer's accent was closer to Warsaw than West Texas. But the fiddler could toss a bow with the best.

Polish entertainers have acquired the sort of reputation for low cost and high quality that Polish industry is striving to win.

"We're good... and we're not too expensive," said Beata Lewtak, hired to sing with a Jordanian band at an Amman hotel.

Robert Liliis, assistant general manager of Amman's Intercontinental Hotel, agreed.

"It's cheaper for us to hire Poles than to hire other European or American musicians," he said.

"We know what we're getting with the Poles," he said. "The standard of music and the range of music are excellent."

This victory on the musical free market is a legacy of Poland's crumbling socialist system. Lewtak and most other Polish musicians are graduates of special music academies, which give intensive training grounded in the classics.

Many musicians began playing jazz and rock outside class, often to the disapproval of their elders.

"In the '50s, jazz was forbidden in Poland," said Tadeusz Toczyski, who played recently at the Meridien Hotel in Damascus.

But now schools have begun to teach the new styles.

"I like jazz best," said Tadeusz Kasprok, whose Veto band played at Amman's Intercontinental. "But when I'm playing with an electronic automatic drummer, it's impossible."

Many touring bands find themselves playing everything from light classical music to disco to regional songs.

"This kind of job is the most difficult because you have to be good enough to play any kind of music they want," said Toczyski, from Krakow.

"In Poland you can find a lot of good musicians. For many years, the main reason that Polish musicians went out was to make the money to buy electronic instruments," Toczyski said.

No aid cut to Afghan rebels

ISLAMABAD, July 8. (Reuters): The United States' envoy to Afghan rebels has said Washington will not cut its aid to the rebels while Afghanistan's Soviet-backed President Najibullah remains in power.

In an interview with the Pakistani daily the Frontier Post published today, Peter Tomsen said US assistance, including arms supplies, to the Afghan mujahideen will continue "at the same level as in previous years."

Tomsen, who has the rank of ambassador, said "the building blocks are going in to their places" for a settlement, but that many problems remained.

US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are due to hold talks on Afghanistan in Paris beginning on July 17.

Tomsen said Washington and Moscow agreed that political power in Afghanistan should be transferred to an "interim entity" which would establish a process for the people of Afghanistan to choose their own leaders.

But he said the specific nature of the body had not yet been decided.

The major obstacle to a settlement has been Najibullah, the 44-year-old ruler and former head of the feared Afghan secret police who has been trying to distance himself and his party from the communist past.

Until recently, Washington had insisted that Najibullah and "less than a planeload" of people must leave. But Najibullah has proven a formidable politician and refused to step aside. Moscow has said it cannot remove him.

"The Soviets only have to change one person's mind and changes will start to happen," one Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, referring to Najibullah.

"He can stay and sign the cheques. He can call himself by whatever title he wishes. He can run in an election and if he wins he can return to power," said the diplomat.

"He just can't have the advantages of incumbency — control of the military, the police and the media — before or during an election, because he would probably cheat."

Leaders with the rebels' beleaguered government-in-exile acknowledged they have been told of Washington's proposals. If Najibullah must be included in a settlement, they said, he should be part of the council.

Psychologically "If Najib stays as president — if only in title — then symbolically and psychologically he has won," said one rebel leader, also speaking on condition of anonymity. "But if the Soviets and the Americans come to any agreement, then it's settled."

Western analysts widely predicted that Najibullah would fall when Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan in February 1989.

But he has held on to power as the 12-year struggle between government forces and the mujahideen continues.

US sources in Islamabad have said Najibullah was "completely unacceptable" to most Afghans and could play no part in the temporary government Washington wants established.

Tomsen said that once Najibullah relinquishes power Washington would not object if he and his ruling Watan (homeland) Party took part in open elections in Afghanistan.

The US envoy said that negotiations on the future of Afghanistan were continuing with the various Afghan resistance groups based outside the country, mostly in Pakistan and Iran.

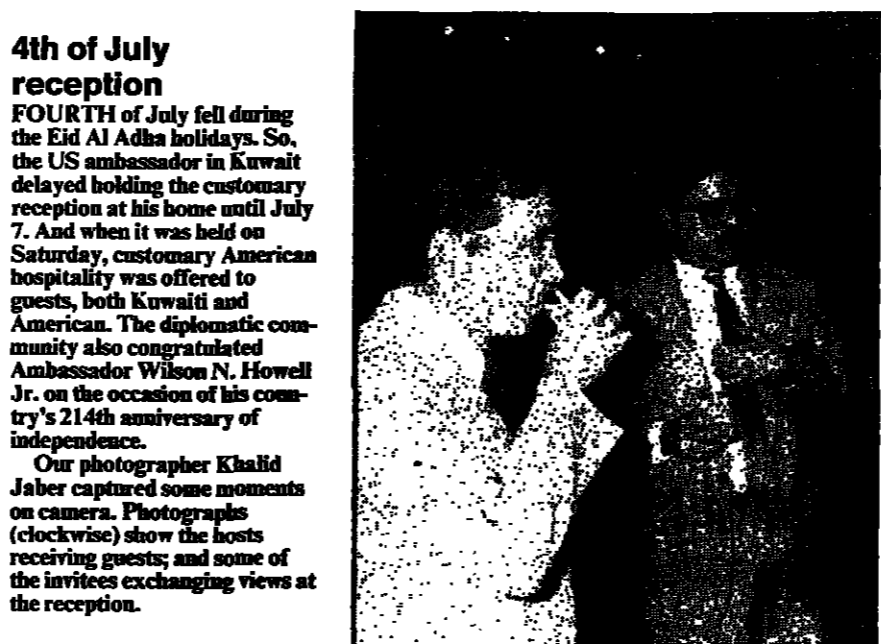
He said Washington realised that any future government of the country would be Islamic.



4th of July reception

FOURTH of July fell during the Eid Al Adha holidays. So, the US ambassador in Kuwait delayed holding the customary reception at his home until July 7. And when it was held on Saturday, customary American hospitality was offered to guests, both Kuwaiti and American. The diplomatic community also congratulated Ambassador Wilson N. Howell Jr. on the occasion of his country's 214th anniversary of independence.

Our photographer Khalid Jaber captured some moments on camera. Photographs (clockwise) show the hosts receiving guests; and some of the invitees exchanging views at the reception.



Meet a neighbour

From home, going home

By Manal Elsheikh
Arab Times staff



Ola Salwat: fulfilling a dream.

NOBODY knows what destiny has in store. Eighteen year old Ola Mohammed Salwat discovered that not everything goes as planned at a tender age.

Egyptian born Ola came to Kuwait a toddler of two years. This year she will leave Kuwait to go back to her homeland where she hopes to study medicine or pharmacology.

After living in Kuwait for sixteen years, Ola has mixed feelings about her departure. "Kuwait is a second home to me. I am both happy and sad about leaving," she said. "I will be leaving my family, friends and way of life. To go to Cairo, but I am looking forward to living in my land of birth after being away for so long," she said.

Ola graduated from a government school in 1989. She then went to Egypt where she attended an English course at the American University in Cairo (AUC). After finishing one academic term, Ola felt that this was not what she wished to do for the rest of her life. She, therefore returned to Kuwait and repeated her final senior school year.

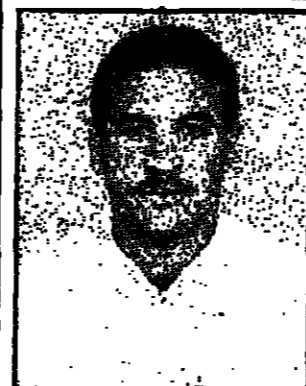
After attending only half of the syllabus, Ola proved that when there is a will there is a way and obtained results which will allow her to fulfil her dream of studying medicine or pharmacology. The choice is hers. "I want to study something which will allow me to help my people and my country," she added.

Although she discontinued studying English at the AUC, Ola does enjoy reading. "My father is an English Literature graduate and he encourages me to read English all the time. I am glad he stimulated this habit. English is a key to many subjects and will help me in the future," she said.

Like many girls of her age, Ola is somewhat apprehensive about the unseen. "I am going to a land of very different people and will be experiencing an entirely new way of life. I do not yet know how I am going to deal with the different types of people I will meet, but thank God my sister will be with me. We will be able to console each other. She will certainly keep my spirits high when I feel lonely or homesick."

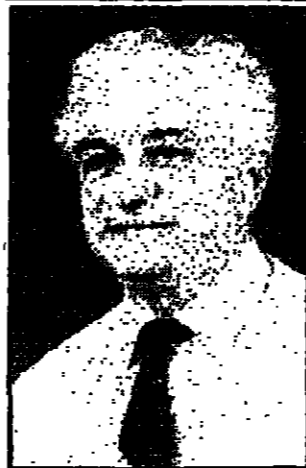
The dark haired, strong minded Virgo is the eldest of six sisters. This radiates in her personality — she seems to be a smooth and responsible young lady.

To take a well deserved rest after a year of studying, Ola will spend some time in the grand countryside of the Nile in a town called Ras El Bar, situated north of the Nile. She is looking forward to spending a quiet summer and hopes to relax and think about her promising future.



Greetings

Arab Saeed Abdullah Ahmed recently turned 41 and held a party to mark the occasion. His friends and family wished him well.



Farewell reception

Mauris Fakhoury recently left Kuwait to settle in the United States. Fakhoury, who was a well-known person in business circles, will spend some time in Europe before going to America. His friends and well-wishers held a reception to say farewell. Fakhoury intends to return to the Gulf to take-up a new assignment in the travel field.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarim-bang. Tel: 4839009, 4839889, 4843447.

LIL July 9: LIL will be holding their monthly big meeting on Monday, at Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom A, for a social evening, from 7 to 10 pm. For details contact Julie — Tel: 5391150.

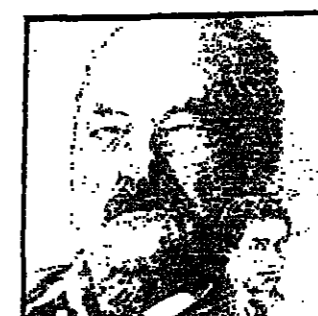
Summerbelle '90 Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony 2612024; Cyril 253930; Joe 5655140.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 9.40 Iftah Ya Simsim (Sesame Street)
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Waad Nahaar: Arabic serial, starring: Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi.
- 11.15 Sabah Al Khair
- 12.00 Al Kanaz: Arabic serial. Starring: Hind Kamel, May Jamal, Fawzi Mahdi.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite
- 1.30 Cartoons
- 2.00 Al Sanafar: cartoons serial
- 2.30 Saif Haar: Arabic serial.
- 3.30 Al Qataar (The Train): Arabic film; starring: Noor Al Sharif, Mervat Amin, Amin Al Hindi, Nabila Al Sayyed.
- 5.15 Cartoons
- 5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
- 6.00 Mama Anisa and Summer: children's viewing
- 7.30 Songs
- 8.00 Quran and Science: prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Raqeeb La Yanam: Arabic serial, featuring Ahmad Mazhar, Samiya Al Alfi, Mahi Ismael, Nawal Abul Futouh.
- 11.00 Nukhta Ala Harf (Punctuation): variety show presented by Marwan Sawaf. Ton-



Jake and the Fatman, tonight on KTV 2.

ight's guests are directors Mohammad Khan and Samir Saif.

12.15 News Summary

12.20 World News via Satellite

12.35 Holy Quran/Closedown

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Cartoons

6.30 Only One Earth: "The Road to Ruin." A look at Solomon Island.

7.00 Roving Report: KTV presents roundup of regional and world news.

7.30 Charles-in- Charge: Charles and Buddy

6.00 Holy Quran

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learn that Nancy is not who she claims to be. Will they reveal her true identity?

8.00 News in English

8.40 Face to face: A local programme. Tonight, an interview with Dalal Al Ghanim, deputy manager for marketing affairs at a local bank.

9.10 Jake and the Fat Man: "The Lady in Red." Jack follows up Eddy's suicide case; investigations reveal he was murdered.

9.40 The People Next Door: "I Do, I Do." Abby is reluctant to marry a divorcee with children. Everyone tries to convince her that he is good for her.

10.30 The New Mission: "Impossible." A security agency recalls a former agent to investigate the assassination of an influential man by a hit man.

11.30 News in Brief

11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Sahmiya Arabic play Al Hamra Al Moallimah Samah (Arabic) Starring: Ezzat Alaili, Madiha Kamel

Drive-In Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Sahmiya Arabic play Al Hamra Al Moallimah Samah (Arabic) Starring: Ezzat Alaili, Madiha Kamel

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Firefighting course

THE Kuwait Sheraton Hotel's management, in co-operation with the Fire Brigade, recently conducted a firefighting course for the hotel's employees.

Staff from different departments took part in the course, which was conducted under the supervision of the security manager of the hotel and the Kuwait Fire Brigade. Above: Some of the employees taking part in the course.



BUSINESS & FINANCE



Ku Klux Klan supporters march through downtown Houston on July 5 to rally for white power the weekend prior to the start of the economic summit. About 70 Klansmen marched and were followed by hundreds of screaming protesters. (Reuters wirephoto)



US President George Bush (left) and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu meet briefly with the media before an informal meeting between the two leaders in Houston on Saturday prior to the start of the economic summit of industrialised nations. (Reuters wirephoto)



An unidentified woman is arrested as police move in to Hermann Park after members of the Revolutionary Communist Party burned an American flag during a pre-economic summit protest Saturday. A total of five people were arrested. (Reuters wirephoto)

G-7 to set aid terms to save Gorbachev

German unification and loans to China main issues of summit

Abandonments

DOE to aid oil industry

HOUSTON, July 8, (UPI): The Department of Energy hopes to help industry slow the rate of oil field abandonments pending the development of advanced recovery techniques, a DOE spokesman told an energy conference yesterday.

"The key is to buy time to keep the fields active while we develop improved technologies," to produce hard-to-reach oil and gas, said Mike McElwath, DOE principal deputy assistant secretary for fossil energy.

The DOE's research programme has traditionally concentrated on long-term energy research, but officials realise they must focus on short-term strategies in response to a gradual decline in domestic production rates since 1983.

During the 1980s, 30 per cent of the nation's known onshore resources within the lower 38 states were believed to be in abandoned fields, he said.

DOE calculations show if oil prices remain at current levels and technology advances are delayed until after the turn of the century, then 65 per cent of the remaining resources in the lower 48 could be in abandoned fields by 1995.

"The bottom line is that we have come to realise that given the problems facing the industry today, that unless we begin to address short-term problems, critical technologies in the near-term, there may not be that much of a domestic industry left, certainly among the independent sector of the country in the 21st century," he said.

McElwath spoke during an enhanced oil recovery conference sponsored by the University of Houston and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Experts estimate less than one-third of the oil in the nation can be extracted using existing production methods, leaving about 340 billion barrels of oil trapped in known reservoirs.

Only about 145 billion barrels of oil have been produced in the nation since oil was first discovered, said Frank Kovarik, conference organiser and director of the UH Institute for Improved Oil Recovery.

McElwath said DOE realises the importance of transferring technology advances from the colleges and labs out to the oil field and to the producers.

"We are trying to work much more closely with industry. We are trying to listen much more closely to industry," he said.

James Russell, president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, suggested DOE make available grants and government-guaranteed loans so that independents can afford improved oil recovery projects.

"This would ensure that the projects would be fully developed and completed, with best efforts made to recover the maximum oil possible under the existing technology," said Russell, who is president of Russell Petroleum Inc. of Abilene, Texas.

"Once the financial problems of many independents have been resolved... technology transfer and field application can and will occur," Russell said.

G-7 to discuss environ

Environmentalists remain sceptical

HOUSTON, July 8, (AP): World leaders will focus on global warming and the destruction of rain forests at the economic summit, but they are unlikely to do enough to satisfy environmentalists.

The seven summit partners are expected to sign a communique outlining how they will co-operate on international environmental issues. They open the first of three days of meetings tomorrow.

Several environmental groups will be on hand with an "environmental scorecard" to grade the summit. They are sceptical about what the leaders of the industrial nations will accomplish.

"The people of the world want more than just communique that sound environmental they want policies that are Environmental Defence Fund, which is based in Washington."

Global warming — the so-called greenhouse effect — has emerged as a thorny international environmental issue. Scientists say gaseous emissions trap solar heat causing a gradual warming of the earth.

While several European nations already have plans to reduce or stabilise carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000 or 2005, President George Bush contends more research is needed on global warming before such dramatic steps need be taken.

In advance of the summit, US officials said participants are expected to agree on the outlines of an international convention, to be held by 1992, to discuss global warming.

But the officials, speaking on condition they remain anonymous, said they expect to avoid a bruising battle at the summit with European nations over a reduction of gaseous emissions.

The officials said the Europeans seem willing to back away from their previous insistence that specific reduction goals be set at the summit. Led by West Germany, some countries had sought a commitment to stabilise carbon dioxide emissions or to reduce them by up to 25 per cent by the end of the decade.

Two other contentious issues are curtailing the destruction of tropical forests and setting up an international "green fund" to help developing countries protect their environments.

The United States is not anxious to sign any agreements curtailing the destruction of tropical forests.

The summiters are expected to agree on strengthening the tropical forestry action plan that was conceived in the mid-1980s by the World Bank and other international organisations. The plan channels international investment into tropical countries to help them develop land use policies that will help save forests.

Meantime, the World Bank is viewed as the most likely choice to administer a "green fund" to provide money for developing nations' environmental projects.

But the Bush administration will oppose a separately financed "green fund," at the World Bank, which lends money to poor countries for various projects. One administration official said the United States would probably go along with a "green fund" if it were financed from existing resources — a position some Europeans would oppose.

HOUSTON, July 8, (Agencies): Leaders of the world's major industrial democracies converged on this hot, hospitable city today for a summit that could set terms for a massive aid effort to one superpower and see the emergence of another.

The big issue on the agenda for the economic summit of the Group of Seven industrial powers starting tomorrow is whether they should mount an emergency Western aid package for the Soviet Union to save Mikhail Gorbachev's troubled reform programme.

The unspoken issue is German unification — a move that establishes Germany as Europe's major economic power and could put it in the ranks of the superpowers.



Thatcher in Houston

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her husband Denis Thatcher smile at school children on Saturday who greeted them upon their arrival at Ellington Air Base in Houston. The prime minister will attend the Economic summit starting today. (Reuters wirephoto)

Saudis gain 4.6pc growth in GNP

RIYADH, July 8, (Kuna): According to the report issued by the Arab Organisation for Investment Guarantee, the Saudi gross national product (GNP) increased by 4.6 per cent in 1989.

Quoted by the Saudi Press Agency, the report noted that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted measures to enhance investment projects and protect local trade.

In 1989 the value of the kingdom's exports amounted to SR 162 billion, while the value of the goods handled at the kingdom's sea ports amounted to more than SR 62 billion.

The figure did not include the petroleum exports.

Meanwhile, the report said 1989 witnessed remarkable activity in establishment of Saudi stock companies as well as formation of national committees for financing trade operations.

The report noted that the industrial sector secured a growth rate of 10.4 per cent in 1989, while the Saudi industrial development fund extended during the fiscal year 1408-1409 SR 1,348 million worth loans for financing 52 industrial projects.

Moreover, the value of the sales of the national factories amounted to about SR 25 billion.

The report pointed out that investment opportunities are available in the kingdom in so many fields including the field of foodstuffs, tea and coffee packing and canning of vegetables.

Jordan, Iraq, Saudis discuss plan

First round talks on joint multi-million dollar pipeline

AMMAN, July 8, (Reuters): Officials from Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have had their first round of talks on a joint multi-million dollar oil pipeline, an official said today.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources told Reuters the meeting, held in the Saudi city of Dhahran last week, focused on a plan to pump Iraqi oil to Jordan by pipeline through Saudi Arabia.

"Procedures regarding linking... the Iraqi pipeline that runs through Saudi Arabia with the (Saudi-Iraqi) pipeline to carry Iraqi crude oil to Jordan

were discussed," he said.

He said the meeting had asked Saudi Arabia's national oil company Saudi Aramco to prepare a technical report with a preliminary evaluation of the project.

The report would be assessed during the second round of talks in early August when officials would agree on a work timetable.

The spokesman gave no further details but government sources have said the project would cost around \$5 billion and would save Jordan \$40 to \$50 million a year it spends on importing Iraqi oil by road tanker.

ker.

They said the project would link Iraq's pipeline to the Saudi port of Yanbu with the Saudi pipeline, which feeds Jordan's only oil refinery at Zarqa.

Jordan gets 80 per cent of its oil from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia via pipeline.

Amman imports 18 million barrels of Iraqi oil annually, most as barter trade or as repayment of Iraq's estimated \$400 million debt to Jordan.

Jordan uses 60,000 barrels of oil daily but produces only 400 to 500 barrels a day. Several foreign companies are exploring for oil.

Saudis step in to resolve Opec rift

Hisham Nazer in Iraq

BAGHDAD, July 8, (Reuters): Saudi Arabian King Fahd sent his oil minister to Baghdad today.

A letter to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was delivered by Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer dealing with ways to reduce a petroleum glut that caused a 30 per cent drop in oil prices this year, diplomats said.

A Baghdad-based Arab diplomat told Reuters the letter to Saddam aimed at hammering differences between some Opec members ahead of the group's ordinary meeting in Geneva on July 25.

Iraq last month accused the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of flooding an already saturated market with cheap crudes.

It urged the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to adhere strictly to the produc-

tion rules and said it wanted to raise prices to \$25 a barrel.

UAE Oil Minister Mansour Al Otaiba has angrily rejected the charges but insists his country should get an Opec output quota of at least two million barrels per day (bpd) — the same level it is currently pumping according to oil sources and nearly twice its official quota.

Kuwait's new Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameri said after talks with Opec President Sadek Boussena in Algiers last week that his country has shifted priority to rescue the market and said that Kuwait was returning to its quota of 1.5 million bpd.

Nazer, who last week visited Kuwait and the UAE, was in Qatar yesterday to deliver a similar message to its leaders, the Qatari news agency reported.

Yemen, Soviets discuss oil ties

SANAA, July 8, (Reuters): The Yemeni Republic, which is seeking foreign assistance to develop its oil industry, has started discussions with the Soviet Union over co-operation in oil exploration, Radio Sanaa said today.

The radio said the meetings started in Yemen's economic capital Aden yesterday after the arrival of Nikolai Boris, the Soviet deputy oil minister.

The Middle East Economic Survey said last week that the Soviet Union has notified its partners that it intends to retain its share in an oil exploration consortium for a 2,100 square km (810 square mile) area in the central Yemen.

The Nicosia-based oil weekly said the Soviet Union was ready to pay all its financial commitments under the deal in cash, adding that a meeting would take place later in July to discuss the matter.

The consortium groups Hung Oil/Exxon of the United States, Machinimport and Zarughegologia of the Soviet Union, France's CFP-Total and the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation.

Ghost of Joseph Stalin haunting Gorbachev efforts to win Western aid

HOUSTON, July 8, (AP): From the sugar fields of Cuba to the shores of the Kurile Islands, the ghost of Joseph Stalin is haunting Mikhail Gorbachev's effort to win economic aid from the West.

With Gorbachev's survival at stake, Western nations are flitting with a \$15 billion aid package to Moscow — an issue that is likely to dominate the economic summit of industrialised nations that begins here tomorrow.

West Germany, France and Italy are eager to proceed, but Gorbachev may have to reverse decades-old Soviet policy before the United States and Japan will go along. No one is expecting a consensus from this summit.

The sticking points for the United States: Soviet assistance to Cuba, and modernisation of the Red Army.

For Japan: Four Kurile Islands seized by Stalin after World War II.

After ridiculing the notion earlier in the year, President George Bush seems to be slowly setting the stage for direct American aid to Moscow. But it isn't going to happen now, he indicated on Friday.

"I have some big problems with that one, and I think the American people do, too," Bush told reporters after the Nato summit in London. He said commercial trade credits might be possible, but that the United States will not provide direct aid so

long as the Soviet Union sends \$5 billion a year to prop up the Cuban economy.

Perhaps more importantly, Bush also urged Gorbachev to scale back the percentage of Soviet spending devoted to the military. Secretary of State James A. Baker III says Moscow has been spending between 18 and 25 per cent of its economy "on military expansion, which in the past has been hostile to the United States."

Baker also said, "We really ought to see some progress toward economic reforms" before sending American taxpayer funds to Moscow. "We ought to have some faith that the money will be well spent," he told CNN Television.

On Cuba, Bush is stating an American political reality. The United States isn't going to subsidize Moscow so that Moscow can subsidize Cuba.

Soviet economic aid to Cuba is estimated by US officials at more than \$4 billion a year, mostly in the form of subsidies for Cuban exports such as sugar. Cuba receives an additional \$1.5 billion in military aid, according to US figures.

Aid-to-Cuba is already the subject of heated debate in Moscow where some argue it would be wrong to turn on an ally under threat from the United States. Others say the Kremlin cannot justify large-scale aid programme at a time of economic decline at home.

Dragon Fund aims at investing in East Asian states: Nabhan

KUNA, July 8, (Kuna): Board chairman of the Dragon Fund and director of the portfolios department at the Kuwait Investment Projects Company (KIPC) Abdul Aziz Al Nabhan said today that the fund aims at investing in East Asian countries.

In an interview with Kuna, Al Nabhan said that the fund went into operation last April with a capital of \$30 million, adding that the unit value of \$100 jumped by \$1.79 in the past couple of months, with an annual interest rate of nearly 11 per cent.

He indicated that the fund is run by the KIPC, Kuwait International Investment Company (Kiico), Indo-Swiss Asia Investment Services and under the sponsorship of the Indo-Swiss Bank in Luxembourg and the Bahrain.

The KIPC ranking official

said that the fund has originated a tradable investment unit to protect the investor from market fluctuations.

He said that the Indo-Swiss Bank, the fund's advisor, enjoys a world-wide reputation in this field.

He noted that the Dragon Fund is designed and qualified for investment operations in the stock exchanges of Pacific nations, including Japan, characterised by their rapidly-growing economies.

Al Nabhan said that the fund's future investment targets include Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

He indicated that the prices of the fund's investment units will be published in the Financial Times and the International Herald Tribune.

Overseas buyers hold key to European shares

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): Foreign investors are playing a leading role in Europe's big stock markets, shifting funds between bourses from London to Milan as conditions change.

In many European centres this year, overseas buyers piling into a particular market have often been the key behind a sharp rise. Their abrupt departure can lead to a steep fall.

"The big change in the market from a few weeks ago is that the foreign element is now missing," said Sergio Pigoli of brokers studio Pastorini, lamenting a break in Milan's recent

surge. "They are worried about the socio-political situation and have stopped buying," he said.

Overseas investors are increasingly rotating investments between European bourses, said Philip Best, responsible for foreign sales at Paris broker Fauchier Magnan.

They are as likely to be motivated by political instability in the Soviet Union and parts of Eastern Europe as by the more mundane fundamentals of domestic growth and corporate results.

There is still a preoccupation with inflation,

singled out by many countries as the number one enemy to be beaten down by raising interest rates.

But high interest rates, which force up the cost of companies' borrowing and make cash investments more attractive, are the scourge of the stock market.

Frankfurt is one market that has been driven up sharply by foreign buying since communism crumbled in East Germany late last year.

"We do not have the courage or the buying power to push prices up on our own. We need

foreign interest if prices are really going to rise," one trader said.

"Germany is going to experience a second economic miracle some time within the next five years... which will mean share prices will probably double," said Juergen Roethig of Baring Bros Securities.

But in the short term, the outlook is less certain.

"News from East Germany — whether good or bad — is going to have a sharp effect on prices here," said Maximilian Mudra of

Bankhaus Metzler in Frankfurt. "We are certainly going to see more volatility."

Foreign investors poured into the Paris bourse in the spring, drawn by France's stability as uncertainty spread over West German plans for unification with the East.

But the love affair with French stocks was short-lived.

"For the time being I don't think the French market is very much in favour," said Jean-Jacques Giony, French equities analyst at Merrill Lynch Securities in London.

Political worries have helped to deter

foreign investors since President Francois Mitterrand last month suggested tax reforms which were interpreted as negative for business.

The Paris bourse depends on international money to take it to new heights as cautious French institutions prefer less risky funds which are indexed to money market rates, analysts say.

In London, the world's third biggest stock market after wall street and Tokyo, high British base interest rates of 15 per cent kept a lid on stocks for most of 1990.

Prices soar in East Germany

Berliners heading West for shopping

WEST BERLIN, July 8, (AP): Katrin Matthes got out of bed before dawn yesterday, left her home in southern East Germany and drove three hours to West Berlin to find food she can afford.

She was among hundreds of East Germans crowding into a West Berlin store to buy meat, butter and milk that, paradoxically, are suddenly cheaper in the wealthy West than the struggling East.

The 17-year-old factory worker from Dresden paid 102 German marks (\$60) for groceries she said will feed her and three Dresden families in the next few days.

"It would have cost 300 marks (\$180) in East Germany," she said.

The stunning rise in prices just days after the Germans states merged their economies has created a scandal in both countries and sent droves of East Germans into Western grocery stores.

After the two nations unified their economies on July 1, East German stores began filling their shelves with Western products.

But because East German stores face substantially less competition, their prices are not only three or four times higher than before economic unification, but also often higher than the same goods sold in West Germany.

Open longer

German media reported a flood of East Germans heading West yesterday, the first shopping weekend since the economic merger and the first Saturday of the month, when West German stores by law are allowed to stay open longer.

At one store, a pound of salt was selling for 21 cents, while in East Berlin it was selling for 72 cents.

Anna Neimann, a 22-year-old student from the southern city of Leipzig, said the East German stores that were once state-owned and sold food at government-set prices are now taking advantage of their captive markets.

"We have to buy what they sell, unless we come here," she said as she stood outside a West Berlin supermarket.

Andries Kurjo, a West Berlin economist and a leading expert on the East German agricultural economy, said consumers will have to rebel to bring prices down.

"The consumers won't accept these high prices," he said. "They have to pay for bread that is four times higher. They can get the same things in some West German shops much cheaper."

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere of East Germany criticised the price increases last week, and government officials asked consumers to report instances of price gouging.

Law

The East German Parliament on Friday passed a law intended to break up the two large grocery chains that hold a virtual monopoly in the East German food business.

The law would allow communities not to sell the formerly state-owned stores in their towns.

Kurjo, however, said he expected few takers. "Who has the money to buy them? Who has the knowledge to run such a store?" he said.

The two grocery store chains, Ho and Konsum, made deals with eight large West German companies in March to sell Western products, which now dominate the marketplace.

Konsum, in a statement yesterday, denied that it was a monopoly and sharply criticised the law passed Friday by parliament.

The chain's board said the property rights of the company are "protected and inviolable," according to a statement carried by the East German news agency ADN.

It said that 1,500 stores were being run by private proprietors and that there were applications to run 600 others. The statement claimed the chain is not a monopoly because it is not owned by its wholesalers.



East Berliners buy strawberries and mushrooms at a truck's loading ramp in East Berlin. East Germans are trying to stock up with goods because they fear a price increase. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rush to open branches in East

Bonn banks compete

HALLE, East Germany, July 8, (Reuters): The paint is barely dry on the new East German offices of West Germany's commercial banks, but competition for customers is already in full swing.

The three biggest banks made their debuts in the new sister market this week with nearly 200 fully functioning branch offices scattered across East Germany.

The biggest, Deutsche Bank, opened on Saturday — the exact start of economic union between the two Germanys — to allow customers to change money.

Another bank chartered two planes to fly West German journalists to a gala opening in the East.

The banks have been making frenzied efforts to corner a share of the emerging market although East Germany's own savings institutions have a huge head start — they account for 90 per cent of Eastern savings accounts.

Smaller West German banks have also opened branches across the border, hoping to cash in on the new market of 16 million eager consumers.

The freshly renovated offices of many new branches contrast sharply with the drab functionalism of old East German banks.

They are tempting customers with glossy pamphlets, favourable interest rates and up-to-the-minute technology such as cash dispensers, previously unknown in the East.

Mobile Telephones offer relatively reliable communications with the banks' headquarters in the West while satellites will provide computer links,

bypassing East Germany's antiquated and overloaded telecommunications system.

The new bank branches offer a full range of loans and investment services to customers more used to a single 3-1/4 per cent interest rate, long queues and minimal banking choice.

Rivalry among the banks has been fierce, not least in their plans for press coverage.

When Commerzbank invited West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to open its new Halle branch, Dresdner Bank countered with a Genscher reception, also in Halle, arranged for the previous day.

"It was all rather childish," a Commerzbank official said.

The West German banks had started to cross the Berlin Wall soon after East Germany threw open its frontiers in November.

Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank, the second largest, really got the ball rolling earlier this year when they cornered a large share of the existing East German market in separate joint ventures with Deutsche Kreditbank AG, a newly privatised division of the old East German Central Bank.

Both West German banks started with a minority stake but they plan to take over full ownership of the joint ventures as soon as legal conditions allow.

Deutsche Bank starts its East German operations with 140 branches, while Dresdner will begin with around 35 branches of its own and about 75 based on Deutsche Kreditbank's premises.

Soviet circus files for US bankruptcy

ATLANTA, July 8, (AP): The Soviet circus stranded outside Atlanta since May has filed for protection from its creditors under US bankruptcy laws.

The great circus Bim Bom filed for Chapter 11 protection Friday in a bankruptcy court in Atlanta, said lawyer Richard Kock, who is donating his services.

The circus, named for two turn-of-the-century Russian clowns, has been stranded in Marietta, North-west of Atlanta, when its planned two-year goodwill tour of the United States was cancelled after investors withdrew support.

Circus members have been forced to live on charity, unable to restart their tour because they can't pay the companies holding their performing animals, costumes and equipment.

They blame a Florida company, International Inc. for improperly managing their tour.

The bankruptcy action would consolidate claims and lawsuits against the circus so it can straighten out its finances, Kock said.

US satellites to go up in Soviet rockets

NEW YORK, July 8, (AP): The Bush administration will allow US commercial satellites to be launched on Soviet rockets for the first time, the New York Times reported today.

An Australian commercial venture, the Cape York Space Agency, will be permitted to hire a US company to run a base in Australia from which Soviet rockets will carry satellites for customers from around the world, the Times reported.

The project, which could be in operation by 1995, would provide a major opportunity for the Soviet Union to expand its international space business and would increase competitive pressures on the US rocket industry, the Times said.

The Times, quoting unnamed officials, said the national space council's decision last week to

approve the Cape York project was "among the thorniest issues involved in the council's policy review."

A spokesman for the space council declined to comment on the report yesterday.

The newspaper said the State Department intends to grant an export licence to the USBI division of the United States Technologies Corp. to operate the Cape York station, where Soviet Zenit rockets could be launched.

The project, estimated to cost nearly \$500 million, is backed by an Australian real estate development company and would not receive any Australian government funds, the newspaper said. The Soviet space agency, Glavkosmos, would supply rockets and engineers but would not own a share in the venture.

Egypt closer to IMF accord

CAIRO, July 8, (Reuters): Egypt is inching ever closer to accord with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic reform but Western economists say it will need to take tougher action before a deal is clinched.

After two years of bargaining, Cairo has begun in the last two months to bite the bullet.

In spite of the risk of public wrath it sharply raised prices on a broad range of consumer goods to cut a gaping budget deficit — a key IMF demand — and moved to reform its interest rate structure and the exchange rate for the pound.

Five IMF negotiators spent two weeks in Cairo last month and according to Western sources took an Egyptian proposal back to Washington for further study.

"They left more than cautiously optimistic," said a Western economist. "But the pressure is still on Egypt to press forward."

An IMF accord would lead to the rescheduling of some of Egypt's \$50 billion of debt and the release of new credits, including a \$300 million Structural Adjustment Loan from the World Bank.

One economist told Reuters the Egyptian government, on the final day of talks, handed the IMF delegation a proposal for a letter of intent that would be the basis for a final accord.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency last week quoted an economy official as saying a new IMF team would be back before the end of July. But an IMF source said it was unlikely one would arrive so soon.

A Western economist said if everything went well, specialised negotiating teams could be back in the country by August to discuss topics such as interest and exchange rates, the deficit and social policies.

A more powerful team would then come to negotiate the letter of intent by September by the earliest.

He said Egypt's huge budget deficit remained the biggest sticking point before an accord could be finalised.

In a 1987 agreement the Egyptians had promised to reduce their budget deficit to around 11 to 12 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) from around 15 per cent.

It is unclear how closely the target was met, partly because the two sides hotly dispute the way the GDP should be calculated, he said.

Because of this the IMF has switched to an absolute figure. It is now asking Egypt to decrease its deficit by 10 per cent, or around two billion pounds (\$750 million), from what was suggested in the 1990/91 budget, the Economist said.

The fiscal year began on July 1. He said the government has been printing money to finance its deficit and, because of this, the IMF has predicted that inflation would soar to 60 or 70 per cent next year if it kept the deficit at its present level.

Economists think the government has gone about as far as it can on cutting food subsidies and that there is little scope elsewhere for reducing government expenditure.

The emphasis instead is now on raising revenue. Cairo has been increasing fees on government services and more can be expected in the future. But still the revenue from this is tiny compared to what is needed.



Census bureau report

In and out of poverty

WASHINGTON, July 8, (UPI): Nearly a quarter of poor people rise above poverty in a given year, but they are replaced by an almost equal number of people who fall below the poverty level, the Census Bureau has said.

"Although the majority of persons who were poor in 1985 were still poor the following year, 23.8 per cent of poor persons in 1985 were not poor by 1986," the bureau said in a new report. "Transitions in income and poverty status: 1985-86."

It said the figures for those moving out of poverty in 1986 were about the same as the exit rate for 1984-85.

"Even though a significant fraction of the 1985 poverty population was able to exit poverty in the following year, the total number of poor persons in 1986 was not significantly different from the 1985 figure," the study said.

The length of poverty "spells" and their cause — changes in income, family composition and other factors — have been critical issues in the debate over anti-poverty strategies.

In 1986, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$11,203.

The Census Bureau looked at the ratio of a family's or person's income to the poverty level and found, not surprisingly, that those most likely to escape or enter poverty were clustered around the income threshold.

The bureau said its study seems to indicate that "a substantial economic or household composition change rather than a minor fluctuation in income was the cause of the poverty status change for the majority of both persons who entered and exited poverty between 1985 and 1986."

The reports also said that poor people who were white were significantly more likely than blacks or Hispanics to exit poverty between 1985 and 1986. About 28.3 per cent of whites poor in 1985 were not poor in 1986, compared with 16.5 per cent of blacks and 14.8 per cent of Hispanics.

Additionally, the elderly and children were less likely to exit poverty than other age groups.

US may sue chemical firms

Refusing to sell arms ingredient

DALLAS, July 8, (UPI): The Defence Department is considering legal action to require two US chemical manufacturers to sell the Pentagon a key ingredient for chemical weapons, despite an agreement signed by President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to ban such armaments, a newspaper said this week.

"It's still an option," Lt Col Steven Roy, a Pentagon spokesman, told the Dallas Times Herald. "All of that is under review."

Citing company policies forbidding involvement in chemical warfare, the two companies, Occidental Chemical Corp. of Dallas and Mobay Corp. of Pittsburgh, have refused Defence Department requests to sell the government thionyl chloride, which is needed to make poison gas artillery shells.

The Defence Department had sought to buy the thionyl chloride to replenish its supplies of the chemical, which were exhausted last month.

Stung by the rejection, Pentagon officials have threatened to invoke a cold war-era law that allows the government to "compel acceptance of defence-related production" for national security reasons.

The United States resumed production of chemical weapons in 1987 after a two-decade hiatus in response to the reported use of the deadly weapon by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and by Iraq in its war against Iran. But one expert on chemical weapons said support for continuing US production had fallen dramatically in the past year.

What makes the situation particularly unusual is that the Pentagon is continuing to pursue the matter even after an agreement at the recent superpower summit to end production of binary chemical weapons and curtail existing stockpiles.

Although the chemical weapons programme appears doomed, the Pentagon has not relented in its current mission, just in case the agreement collapses or is not ratified by the Senate.

"We signed an agreement with the Russians that has not yet been approved by Congress," Roy said. "After Congress approves that and the treaty enters into force, we will have cancelled the binary chemical programme."

An Occidental spokesman said the Texas company has heard of no change in Pentagon policy.

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Prices still high in Nepal

KATHMANDU, July 8, (UPI): Nepal's finance minister said today that prices for essential goods have not declined despite the recent end of India's trade embargo and warned government workers should therefore expect lower pay raises.

"Prices have not declined as expected. The business community is not reducing prices. There is no co-ordination in the government departments to reduce prices," the Finance Minister, Devendra Raj Pandey, said during a news conference.

Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had earlier claimed that prices would decline by 35 per cent after India ended a 16-month trade embargo on July 1 by lifting its ban on the export to Nepal of key goods such as petroleum and coal.

Bhattarai's government took office in April on the heels of a successful seven-week campaign of nation-wide strikes and demonstrations aimed at legalising opposition parties.

The campaign was supported by various parties within India, which agreed afterward to lift its embargo on trade and transit co-operation with its small landlocked neighbour.

"Trade relations have just been normalised," Pandey said.

Market squeeze out concern spurs Swedish investments

STOCKHOLM, July 8, (Reuters): A new breed of viking, armed with cash and clad in corporate stripes, has set out from Sweden on an aggressive campaign of foreign conquests.

"The only way to survive is to grow abroad," said Olof Sjostrom, a Stockholm-based adviser to investment bank Salomon Brothers.

Swedish companies have been spurred into action by concern at being squeezed out of the European Economic Community's single market after 1992 and by a relaxation of financial controls.

"Swedish foreign investment has increased substantially, both in the property market and in industry," Sjostrom said.

They more than doubled their spending on foreign companies to 46.5 billion crowns (\$ 6.7

billion) in 1989 from 1987.

In the first three months of 1990, Sweden led all European nations except France in European foreign investment, with 45 deals worth 3.3 billion European Currency Units, (\$4.1 billion), said a report by the trade publication Translinks European Deal Review.

From January to June Swedish companies raised a record nine billion crowns (\$1.3 billion) through new issues aimed at financing foreign investments, newsletter Sweden Business said.

Major deals this year have included car maker AB Volvo's 12 billion crown (\$1.7 billion) alliance with France vehicle maker Renault.

Large forestry group Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB bought West Germany's Feldmuehle

Nobel AG for four billion marks (\$2.4 billion). Another forestry group Svenska Cellulosa AB made a recommended bid of £543.9 million (\$968 million) for Britain's Reedpack Ltd.

The latest wave of Swedish empire building, especially in real estate, was touched off partly by a relaxation of foreign exchange controls last year.

Swedish firms which had overbid the closed domestic market were suddenly free to seek good deals in London, Paris, Amsterdam and elsewhere, Sjostrom said.

The European Economic Community's march toward economic integration has made many Swedish companies determined to get an EEC foothold. Many have become frustrated with their

government's indecision over seeking EEC membership.

"The statistics show that Sweden has finally decided to commit itself wholeheartedly to the European Economic Community, at least in terms of investment," the Translink report said.

When they buy abroad, Swedish companies have been following a world-wide trend of seeking to grow in their existing businesses, Sjostrom said.

For example, Stora has expanded broadly in the forestry and paper business in the last decade. In the words of an Enskilda securities report, Stora has transformed itself from a "local Swedish interest to a major force in Europe (whose) production structure probably ranks as the most efficient in the world."

\$35 million IB loan to Pakistan

BAHRAIN, July 8, (Reuters): Masraf Fayssal Al Islami, one of Bahrain's two offshore Islamic banks, said it would loan Pakistan \$35 million to finance development projects.

Imtiaz Pervaz, the bank's general manager, said Western news agency reports putting the credits to Pakistan totalled \$5.5 billion were incorrect. The money would be used to finance power, textile, spinning and steel projects.

Islamic banks do not take interest or guarantee returns to their depositors because this is viewed as usury, which is prohibited by Islam.

A game that restores a part of life

League basketball matters; someone cares

By Jonathan Rowe

NEW YORK, (CSM): There are more than eight million people in New York City, and practically none of them know about this basketball game.

The gym is at the Mitchell Houses, a low-income project in the gloomy South Bronx. It's late, and the place feels as empty as a movie theatre after the midnight show. Yet Bobby Hunter is pacing the sideline, exhorting his players as though college basketball's "Final Four" tournament were on the line. "Man to man," he shouts, in an outburst of strategic frenzy, "Man to man."

During a brief lull in the action, Hunter says, "This is the Final Four. They are playing to win and the bonus that they may get is part of their life back. That's a pretty great trophy."

The players seem no different from ones that frequent playgrounds throughout the city. Except for this: They all live in shelters for homeless men. They have drug problems and legal problems, and many have other problems. But for these two hours, they are out of that world.

Hunter started this League with his friend Nate "Tiny" Archibald, the former Boston Celtics guard who grew up in the Mitchell Houses. There are three teams so far. They play one another as well as church teams and the like. Tonight Archibald is serving as referee, and his mere presence seems to charge up the players the way high school players respond when a college scout is in the stands. And there's Hunter, formerly of the Harlem Globetrotters, eyeing every move, dispensing his lyric blend of jock discipline and hip ghetto banter.

This game matters. Somebody cares. "Basketball reminds them of their life when things were better," Hunter wrote in the newsletter of the Fort Washington Men's Shelter, where he works. "And when you do something that you're good at, it returns the good feeling to you."

In his Black Muslim-style cap and sunglasses, Hunter looks more like a side man for The Pharaohs than a coach. But someone who has spent time in his life in gyms. His short beard is speckled with gray, but he still has a mischievous gleam and a teenager's big-footed stride. Last Friday, he was up all night with a man on the verge of suicide. Then he gathered the team into a van for a game in a bombed-out section of the Bronx. "Bobby gives us tips—stretching, how to eat," says a member of the team. "It really helps a lot of us stay away from harmful substances."

The Fort Washington Shelter is a grim barracks with a metal detector at the entrance. Hunter's office, which serves also as library, chapel, and all-purpose counselling centre, is locked with a combination lock and chain. Time here does not proceed in the ordered segments of the workaday world. Tonight's game was



Homeless New York City men on coach Bobby Hunter's team race through a basketball play.



With a blend of jock discipline and hip ghetto banter, coach Bobby Hunter (with cap) encourages homeless men to play basketball.

supposed to begin at 7:30, for example. Yet it's 7:25 and the game is still being outside the shelter, half full.

They are waiting for the team's power forward, a fellow they call "Big Guy". A half hour ago, Big Guy was meandering through the corridors, smoking. Now somebody says he's taking a nap. Hunter probably planned for such delays. Wait until 8:30 or 9:00 to assemble and the team would have dispersed into the night. The coach has a lot of little tricks like this. He schedules games on Saturday morning for example, and practices are on Sunday. "It knocks out a guy's potential of going to the party," he says. "And these guys, they go to the party."

Big Guy finally appears, and the van is off through neighbourhoods known mainly through crime stories. "That's the 39th,"

another voice rejoins. "I seen him on the inside."

At a stoplight, Hunter notices a player from the night's opposing team. "How'd you see me?" the man asks, climbing into the van. "Because you're the ugliest man on the street," Hunter replies.

For a housing project, the Mitchell Gym isn't half bad. The side baskets are missing or bent, but the main court has glass backboards and is regulation size. A high school all-star team is practicing for a charity tournament, and the shelter team sits watching on the sidelines. They are quiet and a little pensive, watching these young men with bright futures before them.

"You can always keep learning. Right, Bobby," says a spindly player who couldn't be much more than 20. "Sure, you can keep learning," Big Guy says

back. "I've been reflecting on that. But after a while what good is it? All you can do is pass it along to the younger guys."

Hunter, meanwhile, is watching the practice intently. He doubles as an assistant coach at Long Island University, where he played as an undergraduate, and out of the blur of sweating bodies he seizes quickly upon one he likes. "He's mean," he exclaims of a surly forward.

Hunter grew up in Harlem, and after college he kicked around various pro tryout camps. He never stuck because of what he once described as an "inability to conform." He played with the Globetrotters from 1966 to 1974, and to this day he has an exaggerated theatrical quality that helps him slip past the formidable defenses of these young men. "You have to fake to the left and go to the

right," he says. "Otherwise they'll react to it and go the opposite way."

For all his gregarious charm, Hunter reveals little about himself. He deflects personal questions with an ambiguous monosyllable or a bit of homey philosophy, and he parries questions about the players the same. Asked if one of them is in trouble here, he replies, "All of us on this Earth are in trouble."

"He gets a lot of respect, but he doesn't get close to them," says Eddie Manes, a local businessman who helps Hunter as a volunteer.

Finally, the homeless teams take the floor. They are wearing pickup gear, though a few have classy new basketball shoes. (One suspects that a question about the source of these would not be appreciated.) On a recent Saturday, the Fort Washington team seemed scattered and out of sorts. But on this night, with a former NBA scoring champ serving as referee, the players are focused and intense.

A squat, balding guard they call "Muscles" drives the lane like a 14-year-old, and the spindly fellow turns out to have an uncanny jump shot. Hunter runs the team hard and substitutes freely. "You have to be reasonably sober to play this game the way I make them play it," he says.

Big Guy is especially impressive. Though not that tall, he has sledgehammer shoulders and he works for rebounds with a relentless fury. Big Guy looks like he could have been a college prospect. But even in the course of two games, problems are apparent. Like several of the others he has a short emotional fuse. A missed shot, a bad call by the referee, and he'll mope instead of hustling back into the play. The previous Saturday, he stalked off the court in anger at the ref's calls.

Mistakes become defeats instead of occasions for improvement, Hunter says. Countering this habit is his continual refrain. "You mix the negative and compound on the positive," he tells the team at one point, obviously pleased at the new turn of phrase.

There is a brief moment at half-time when it appears such urgings have found a few receptive ears. The game is close, and the players are trying to diagnose their mistakes. Big Guy is disgusted that the team is moving the ball too slowly, giving the other team time to set its defense. "We saw the young kids doing it, but we aren't," Muscles says.

Towards the end of the game there is a heated scramble under the basket, and an opposing player falls to the floor. "Help him up. Help him up," Hunter shouts, as though it were the most important thing in the city of New York at that moment. "And then knock him down again," he adds, more to a visitor than to the players. "The Lord has to be very tricky these days. He's got some very hard cases."

Who rules your roost

EVERYONE knows a relationship needs plenty to give and take if it is to survive. But are you the one who is constantly giving while your partner does the taking?

Is your other half difficult, selfish, awkward and possessive? And if there is a decision to be made do they make it? If the answer is yes then you may need help in handling your so-called partner. Try this fun quiz and find out whether you're a super-wimp when it comes to relationships, or whether you give as good as you get. Be warned — you could be in for a few surprises!

1. It's your fourth date. Yet again your partner claims to have forgotten his wallet and you end up footing the bill. Do you:

- (a) Pay yet again and say nothing?
- (b) Give him money for a taxi to go home and get his wallet?
- (c) Go home, leaving him to face the music — he deserves it?
- (d) Complain but pay?

2. You are at a party. Your partner gets very drunk and starts telling crude jokes. He ignores you when you ask him to stop. Do you:

- (a) Beat him at his own game by telling even dirtier jokes and embarrassing him?
- (b) Go home, leaving him stranded at the party?
- (c) Wait outside in the car for him until he wants to go home?
- (d) Complain to your girlfriends but say nothing to him?

3. Your partner wants to go on a wild 18-30 holiday. He knows you hate the idea but books up for you both anyway. Do you:

- (a) Resign yourself to two weeks of hell?
- (b) Cancel it without telling him, and book a two-week trek in the Himalayas, something he will hate?
- (c) Refuse to go but offer to drive him to the airport?
- (d) Say you'll go but take plenty of romantic novels with you in case you get bored?

4. A close friend tells you your partner is a bit of a Romeo. Do you:

- (a) Angrily confront him?
- (b) Thank her for telling you but say nothing to him?
- (c) Burst into tears and refuse to believe it?
- (d) Ask him if it's true and happily accept his denials?

5. You invite your partner to an important company function. At the last minute he cancels saying he has a headache. Do you:

- (a) Give him some aspirin?
- (b) Dump him?
- (c) Go to the function and tell everyone your partner couldn't get away from work?
- (d) Tell him you love him more than your job and you don't mind?

6. Your partner has just bought a new car, but refuses to insure you to drive it. Do you:

- (a) Shout at him and start to cry?
- (b) Accept it. Men are better drivers than women anyway?
- (c) Complain bitterly behind his back but say nothing to him?
- (d) Get your own insurance?

7. He demands you clean his flat, knowing that you hate that housework. He insists it is a woman's job. Do you:

- (a) Do the cleaning for him?
- (b) Complain bitterly before asking him where he keeps his vacuum cleaner?
- (c) Take some days off work to spring-clean his flat?
- (d) Hire a charlady and pass the bill to him, saying it's a man's job to pay?

8. Your partner suddenly announces he's going to a rugby match on your birthday, even though he had promised to take you to Paris for the weekend. Do you:

- (a) Keep quiet. You know how important rugby is to him?
- (b) Take a friend to Paris and live it up?
- (c) Ask him what sandwiches he wants you to make for him for his packed lunch?
- (d) Arrange to be away on his birthday?



9. At a Christmas party you catch him passionately kissing another girl. Do you:

- (a) Get your own back by grabbing the nearest man?
- (b) Hit him and run out in floods of tears?
- (c) Tell the girl's boyfriend who is a judo blackbelt and go home?
- (d) Say nothing?

10. You land a well-paid job in London that means you will earn more than your partner. He gets jealous and demands you refuse the job. Do you:

- (a) Ignore him. Your career comes before his insecurities?
- (b) Help him fill out job application forms?
- (c) Refuse the job?
- (d) Tell him his behaviour is threatening your love?

11. The handsome ski instructor on your Austrian holiday wants you to move up from the beginners' class. Your partner gets jealous and demands you stay with him. Do you:

- (a) Opt for the quiet life and stay in the novice class?
- (b) Change classes without a second thought?
- (c) Change classes but feel guilty?
- (d) Say you'll only go if your partner can go too?

12. An ex-boyfriend rings out of the blue and your partner flies into a jealous rage. Do you:

- (a) Tell him not to be so childish?
- (b) Tell him you love him madly and would never look at any other man?
- (c) Start to question him about his former girlfriends?
- (d) Sulk?

13. You splash out on a new outfit, but he ruins it by spilling his drink on it. Then he blames you for being so clumsy. Do you:

- (a) Tell him you didn't like the dress anyway?
- (b) Ask him to go halves on the dry-cleaning bill?
- (c) Pour your drink over his best suit and walk out?
- (d) Tell him you're sure it will come out in the wash?

14. You have just spent £50 on a new haircut that your partner laughs at. He says you look like something the cat dragged in. Do you:

- (a) Tell him that at least you've got some hair?
- (b) Laugh, but arrange another hair appointment as soon as you can?
- (c) Ask him what style he thinks you should have?
- (d) Tell him you paid for it with his credit card?

15. Your younger sister wants to come and stay with you. Your partner and she don't get on and he tells you to say no. Do you:

- (a) Talk him round using your charm — it never fails?
- (b) Apologise to your sister but say you're too busy?
- (c) Take no notice of him?
- (d) Throw a tantrum?

How to score:
Award the following points for your selection, then add up your score.

	a	b	c	d
1.	5	15	20	10
2.	20	15	5	10
3.	5	20	15	10
4.	20	15	5	10
5.	5	20	15	10
6.	10	5	15	20
7.	5	15	10	20
8.	5	20	10	15
9.	15	10	20	5
10.	20	15	5	10
11.	10	5	20	15
12.	15	20	10	5
13.	5	15	20	10
14.	15	5	10	20
15.	15	5	20	10

What your score means:

UNDER 75 POINTS
He walks all over you — and you let him! You'll do anything for a quiet life, but if you don't start standing up for yourself soon you'll lose all your self-respect. You're far from happy in your relationship and should be totally honest with yourself. The strong dominant man you were attracted to in the beginning has turned out to be a bully. If he won't change, you'll have to. You've got a strong desire to be loved and to belong to someone but you should look for someone who deserves your affections.

75-150 POINTS
You're a born romantic and wander round with stars in your eyes dreaming of your man. You're in love with the idea of being in love, and prefer to just push your partner's faults neatly under the carpet where they can't bother you. Occasionally, you make a stand for your independence but it's very half-hearted. He's really got you under his thumb — and he knows it.

150-225 POINTS
You're the confident career girl type and you think the world of your man. You recognise that he is far from perfect, but you're happy with him. In the eyes of the world you are the dominant partner, but in reality you secretly like to be dominated. You appear to be a thoroughly modern "miss" but you need the security of having a man in your life. You're not really in control, and apart from the odd moan, you don't really care.

225-300 POINTS
You don't take any nonsense from any man. You're the Amazonian type who leaves most men shaking in their shoes. You are attracted to awkward men as you thrive on the conflict the relationships presents — especially as you know you'll always win an argument. There are plenty of men you could easily dominate but that would bore you. You may be in control of your partner, but remember — your direct no-nonsense approach will make you lots of enemies and frighten off many men.

Sheen shines

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Tom Cruise profited mightily by teaming with veteran Paul Newman in *The Colour of Money*, and Charlie Sheen hopes to do the same co-starring with Clint Eastwood in *The Rookie*.

Sheen is only the most recent beneficiary of an old star-building technique perfected by the major studios more than 60 years ago.

It was the scheme of MGM's Louis B. Mayer, 20th Century Fox's Darryl Zanuck, Jack Warner at Warner Bros. and Adolph Zuker at Paramount, among others, to build stars slowly, beginning with featured parts in B pictures.

When their youngster learned to act passably well, he or she got minor parts in major movies and then moved on to featured roles in major films, headlined by superstars. The next step was a co-starring role with a top box-office star.

Finally, they were given top billing in movies designed to show them at their best. It would not be long before the newcomer, now an established star, found herself or himself working with some new youngster coming down the assembly line. And the beat went on.

The system assured studios of a constant supply of box-office attractions. That's the way it was done with Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, Bette Davis and even Marilyn Monroe.

In these times of free-lance players, it is a wise budding star who works with a superstar in the process of being seen and attracting new fans. And, it is just as important to the superstar seeking to lure new, younger audiences to his pictures.



Charlie Sheen

Newman and Cruise, to their mutual benefit, pulled it off a couple of years ago in *The Colour of Money*. Cruise has been in high gear ever since.

Now Charlie Sheen is adding lustre to his career by co-starring with Eastwood in *The Rookie*, a young cop-older cop teaming. Sheen, colourfully clad in a wide-striped blue and yellow blazer, chino trousers, green T-shirt and a yellow snap-brim Dick Tracy hat, strode into a suite at the Century Plaza Hotel on a break from *The Rookie*, which Eastwood is also directing, and sat down to talk.

"I guess the system really works even today," Sheen said. "At least Clint and I have it covered demographically. It certainly helped me when I did *Wall Street* with Michael Douglas."

"It's an honour for me to work with individuals of their calibre. It's not just a matter for broadening audiences for both actors. The system is great for helping younger actors study the performance of the established star in the process of acting on the set."

"It's interesting watching their set

behaviour and approach to film. That's valuable. I learn a lot when I work with my dad (Martin Sheen) and with Michael and now Clint. They're all terrific actors."

The 24-year-old performer had returned to Hollywood from northern California locations of *The Rookie* to beat the publicity drums for *Navy Seals*, due for release July 20.

For an actor his age, Sheen has the remarkable record of working in 22 feature motion pictures in seven years, including the Oscar-winning *Platoon*.

In the past two years Sheen has starred in seven movies: *Major League*, *Eight Men Out*, *Tragic Mountain*, *Men At Work*, *Cadence*, *Navy Seals* and now *The Rookie*.

"Last year was rough," he said grinning. "I had five days off between *Men At Work* with my brother Emilio (Estevez) and *Cadence* and 10 days between that and *Navy Seals*. Then I had a week off to shoot the end of *Men At Work* before I began *The Rookie*."

"I've kept busy because I love working in interesting projects. It keeps me excited, but it doesn't leave much time for a personal life."

"In fact, it ruined my engagement to Kelly Preston. We were engaged for a year and a month. She came to the locations where I was shooting, but all this work broke up the romance."

"I know actors once did five or six pictures a year, but that was with five- or six-week schedules. Today, schedules are often three months or longer, and I don't want to get this tired again."

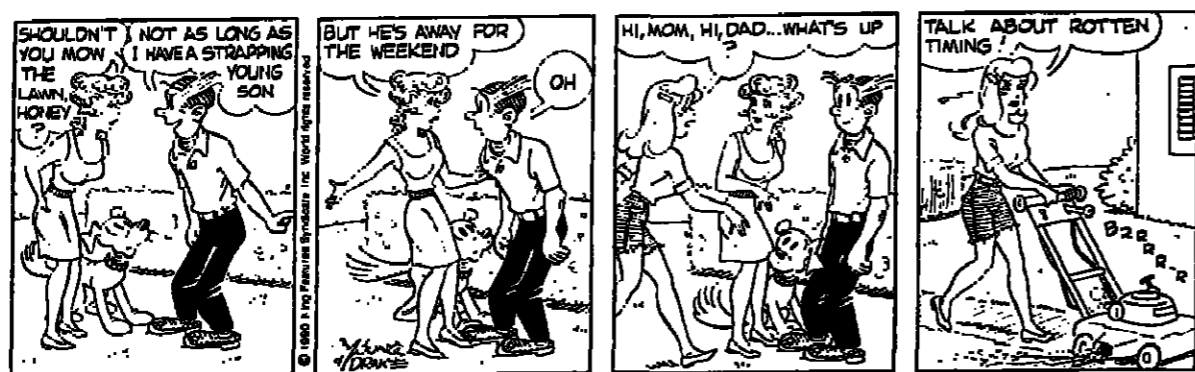
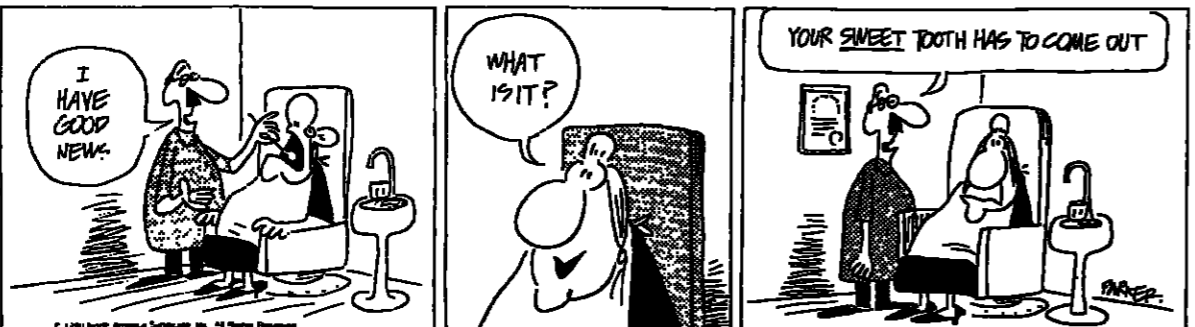
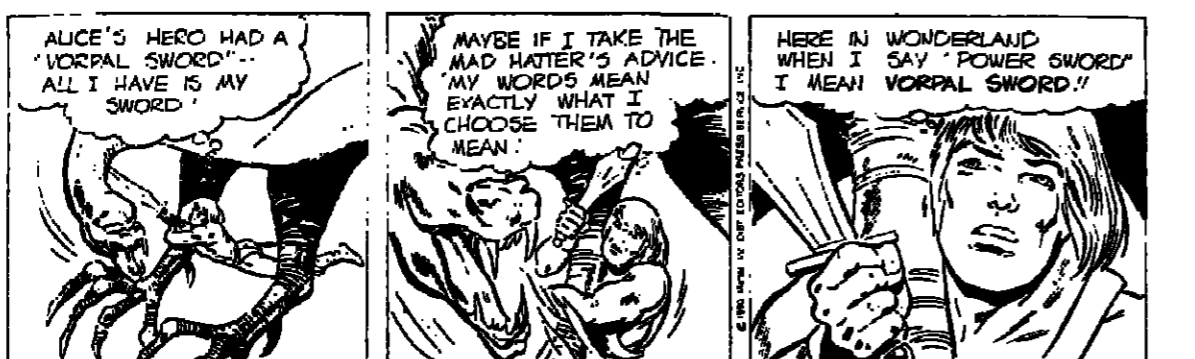
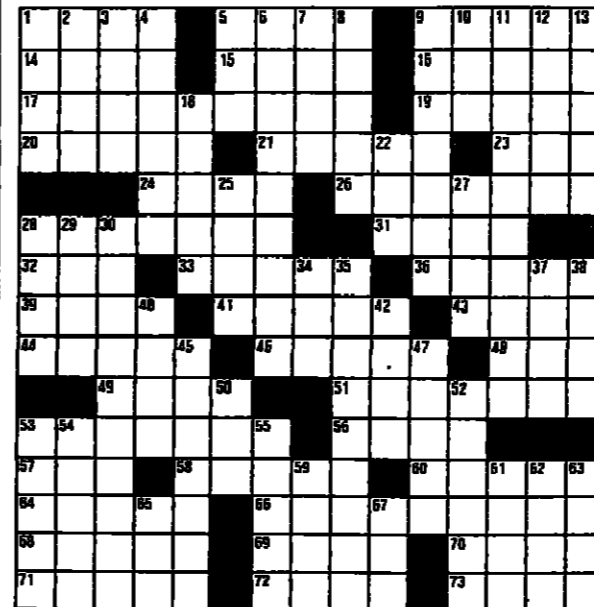
Sheen likes nothing better, he says, than working with his family.

"I've made three movies with my brother, Emilio — *Wisdom*, *Young Guns* and *Men At Work*. I did *Wall Street* with my dad along with *Cadence*, which included my brother, Ramon."

"Working with my family has advantages and disadvantages. We're not competitive. We have a history together and it helps knowing each other's rhythms and attitudes. The disadvantage is that there's a tendency to relax too much in our scenes together."

"Dad and Emilio are directors, and I want to direct a picture before I'm 30. I have six years to go."



BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dick Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

ACROSS
 1 Goya's duchess
 5 Noncoms
 9 Peak
 14 Part of a park
 15 Venezuela
 16 Operetta star
 17 Ringo-Belle confrontations?
 19 Cloth
 20 Rome's port
 21 Acid and A
 23 Winner over AES
 24 Rank's partner
 26 "— than springtime..."
 28 Mechanic of a type
 31 Jannings of old flicks
 32 Model Carol
 33 Yule visitor
 36 Mary in haste
 39 Actress Patricia
 41 Poker openers
 43 Bacchanalian cry
 44 "Dead Souls" author
 46 Place
 48 Wright wing
 49 Leaves
 51 Rumor
 53 Weapon for AI?
 56 Longfellow's bell town
 57 Omelet base, in old Roma
 58 Bedeck
 60 Open-mouthed
 64 Emulate the Pied Piper
 66 Brass instruments for Phineas?
 68 A Shaw
 69 Great Barrier island

DOWN
 1 Oh, yes
 2 Realtor's offerings
 3 Row or life
 4 Wandering
 5 Handle
 6 Kind of order
 7 Apple center
 8 Far from polite
 9 "Dr. Livingstone, I —"
 10 Actor
 11 Mitts for Captain William?
 12 Chopin work
 13 Take the helm
 18 Stock market grouping
 22 — the line
 25 Baryshnikov specialty
 27 Cleo's
 30 Blowout for Amos Alonzo?
 34 Pedro's uncle
 35 Michael, for one
 37 Negri of the silents
 38 Hard to hold
 40 Chicago district, with "The"
 42 Cooking fat
 45 Hair
 47 Singer Vaughan
 50 South, in Bonn
 52 Hardships
 53 Musical finales
 54 Prevent
 55 "I won't take — an answer!"
 59 Word on a French menu
 61 Like — of sunshine
 62 Nabokov hero
 63 Bondsman of yore
 65 Trouble
 67 "My — Sai"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
 SASS ASST EDNA
 LILAC SPAR REAR
 IRANI TORE ATOM
 DETERMINANT FME
 CONS TORIO
 MADCAP OPENER
 ODEA EERO EMEER
 BALLADS MIRANDA
 SKILL SAPS ICED
 BOOKED LONERS
 AVENUE ORAL
 TOR DETRIMENTAL
 LIAR PAIN AERIE
 ACTI ERNIS NEILLS
 SEED RAGE DOSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
IMPALED ON MORTON'S FORK

North-South vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 3 2
 ♥ A Q 9
 ♦ 8 5 3
 ♣ K Q 10

EAST
 ♠ A 10 8 6
 ♥ 5
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ A J 8 7 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ J 5
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 3
 ♦ A K 6 4 2
 ♣ Void

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 NT 2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass
 3 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass
 5 ♣ Pass 6 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

Cardinal Morton, chancellor of the exchequer to King Henry VII, had a simple rule for assessing merchants. If they lived lavishly, they obviously could afford to be taxed heavily. And if they appeared to be of modest means, then obviously they had stashed away a lot of cash and were equally ripe for the plucking. This bridge play bears his name.

North-South bid well to reach their small slam in hearts. Make

North's queen of clubs the queen of diamonds and declarer could almost have claimed. Note North's raise to five hearts to show good trumps, but no first-round control to cue-bid.

West led a club, and declarer was not at all disappointed with the apparent wasted values in clubs, for it was a moral certainty that East had the ace of spades to justify the two-club overcall on a ratty suit. The queen of clubs was played from dummy and East's ace was ruffed away. Declarer crossed to the table with a trump to lead a spade and East was caught on the fork.

Had that defender elected to play low, declarer's jack would have won. Another trump to the table would have allowed South to discard his remaining spade on the king of clubs and all the defenders would have collected would have been a diamond trick.

East realized what might happen and rose with the ace of spades, but that proved to be no better. Declarer won the diamond shift in hand, cashed the jack of spades, drew the last trumps ending in dummy and then took three diamond discards on the king of clubs and king-queen of spades. The defenders were thus limited to one trick, the ace of spades, and the slam coasted home. More pelf for the exchequer.



Aries
 March 21 - April 19
 You should not say anything you do not really mean. Do all you can to spur on flagging enthusiasm. You should try to ensure that your facts are not out of date. Be more patient.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 You will be faced with what at first sight looks like a bargain. Beware it is not all it appears to be and is likely to be a false economy. What you had been taking for granted will turn out to be quite mistaken. Be moderate.



Libra
 Sept 23 - Oct 23
 You would be quite wrong to take love for granted — if you do it could well disappear. Do not act out of malice, nor should you allow your resentment to cloud your judgement. Take the best possible care of your health. Be frank.



Capricorn
 Dec 21 - Jan 19
 You are more liable to stumble or trip and should take extra care. Make sure you do not rely on guesswork and do not hesitate to ask if you are not sure. This is not the right time to take any undue and avoidable risks. Be observant.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 You will be tempted to spend more than you can afford — don't. There will be a good opportunity but you must act swiftly in order not to miss it. Think hard and long before making up your mind on a controversial matter. Be courteous.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug 21
 You will find it hard to keep your mind on the subject but should do all you can to avoid deviating from it. And do your best not to get into any kind of argument. A friend will be pleased to hear from you. Be resilient.



Scorpio
 Oct 23 - Nov 21
 If you wait until the last minute you may well be too late. And try to ensure that you have enough in reserve of some material not readily obtainable, and ensure you do not allow anything to dry out or become stale. Be consistent.



Aquarius
 Jan 20 - Feb 18
 There is a greater likelihood of mistakes and you should be on the lookout for them. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 22. Avoid doing anything that is illegal if you do you will not "get away" with it. Keep your wits more about you. Be reliable.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 Take more interest in what is of interest to your partner. You are too liable to dwell on the past and you should refrain from having regrets. Too late to alter what is over and done with. Be alert.



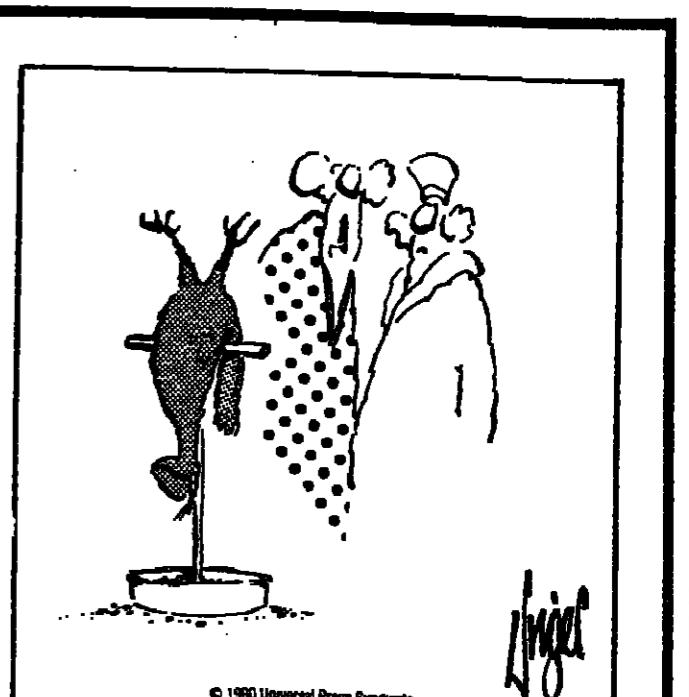
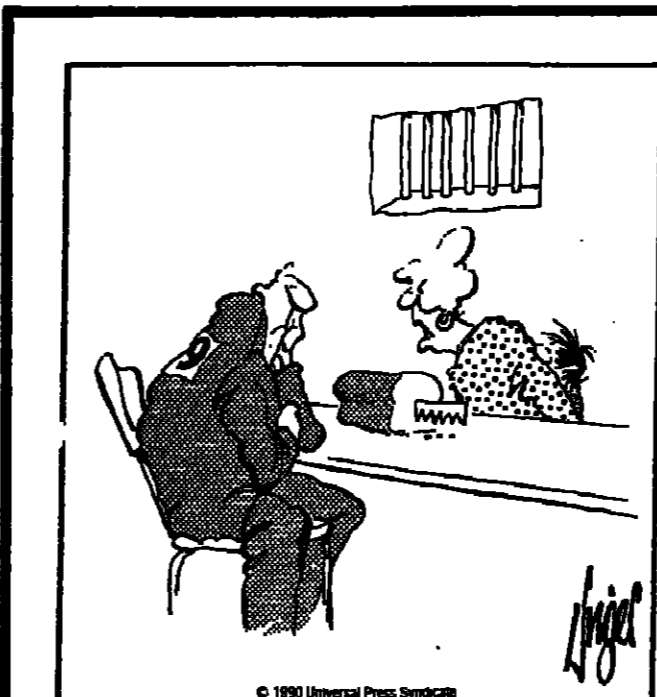
Virgo
 Aug 23 - Sept 22
 You will have plenty to do and should ensure that you do not allow yourself to be sidetracked. A tendency to confuse what is not important should be kept in check if at all possible. Make sure you get sufficient rest, but do not think that all extra effort is too much for you.



Sagittarius
 Nov 23 - Dec 21
 You will have to deal with a rather difficult person and should do all you can not to lose your temper. Do not do anything that you know would be on your conscience. Allow yourself to be guided by reason rather than by intuition. Be tolerant.



Pisces
 Feb 20 - March 20
 You will be reluctant to do what has to be done, but there is no evading it. Make sure you don't do anything that would be an invitation to thieves. Do not exaggerate nor exceed reasonable limits. Be conscientious.



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Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga is beaten by David Platt's header. (Reuter wirephoto)



England's Steve McMahon (left) is chased by Italy's Giuseppe Giannini. (Reuter wirephoto)



Shilton looks from behind the net as Schillaci gets to the ball. (Reuter wirephoto)

3rd place win has Italians smiling again

Reputation of some stars takes huge dents

**Goalscorers
in World
Cup finals**

ROME, July 8, (Reuters): Here's a selection of 1990 World Cup quotes:

"Everything must proceed according to the highest ideals of sportsmanship, of fair play, of respect and friendship in human relations." — Pope John Paul II before the start of the tournament in which a record number of players were sent off or booked for indiscipline.

"You can expect World Cup matches to be rough. There is too much pressure on players. They are all fired up and it's quite natural that they lash out sometimes." — Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez on FIFA's calls for fair play.

"The game has been cleaned up. The behaviour of the players and coaches has never been better." — FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni about the rash of yellow and red cards.

"Here you are in Italy and it's not right to get drunk. You are welcome in Italy but please behave in a civilised way." — Cagliari deputy police chief Antonio Piza pleading with rowdy English fans in Sardinia.

"Why do they want to make themselves look so ugly? Why do they go around drinking all the time with hardly any clothes on?" — Rome bar owner on English soccer hooligans.

"Is it fair that a country, a city, its citizens and football itself should pay such a price for the lack of civilisation of the usual English hooligans?" — Gazzetta Sportiva newspaper on massive security to guard against soccer violence.

"We may be hooligans but we're not animals." English fan refusing free accommodation offered without ground-sheets or camp beds.

"To be honest, we just want to get home." — sun-blasted fan after a month spent trailing the England team around Italy.

"We simply didn't exist." — Argentine midfielder Jorge Burruchaga after the defeat by Cameroon in the opening match.

"Brazil did not deserve to lose." — Diego Maradona, in the understatement of the World Cup, after Brazil lost 1-0 in the second round.

"You are not going to convince me that Argentina played better than us." — coach Vico Ojeda after Yugoslavia played the defending champions in the quarterfinal but lost a penalty shoot-out.

"I can't be sure I won't do it again because in the heat of the game, in the desire to reach a ball, your hand goes off on its own." — Maradona. Unseen by the referee, he had handled to prevent a Soviet goal and revived the 1986 'Hand of God' row.

"I think God made me miss the penalty for superstitious reasons." — Maradona, tongue in cheek, after missing his penalty in the quarterfinal shoot-out against Yugoslavia.

"The player who kicks the last penalty either has the key to the hotel or the plane tickets home." — Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo on penalty shoot-outs.

"Please don't wake me up." — Salvatore Schillaci, still in a dream after scoring his fourth World Cup goal against Ireland.

"These scenes are very painful for all of us but we have to show them." — television commentator on Italy's elimination by Argentina.

"My heart is bleeding." — singer Luciano Pavarotti on Italy's defeat.

"The Argentines have a lot of good luck. They get to the final and nobody knows how." — Italian midfielder Nicola Bert.

"I don't want to be an enemy. I ask all Italians to forgive me and I ask for understanding." — Maradona.

"I'm only useful when they need a mule. I'm not anyone special any more." — faded Italian striker Gianluca Vialli.

BARI, July 8, (Reuters): Italy went out of the World Cup with the chant of 'champions champions' ringing in their ears as 50,000 delirious fans ignored the fact that the team had placed third.

Yesterday's third-place play-off, in which Italy beat England 2-1, put the smile back on everyone's face after both teams' bitter disappointment at being knocked out of the semifinals in penalty shoot-outs.

In the press conference room managers Bobby Robson and Azeglio Vicini swapped compliments after a beautifully played and, above all, sporting match.

In the stands, the few English fans who had made the long trip south exchanged flags with the Italians as they watched their teams take a lap of honour together and finally convinced the nation that not all England's followers were hooligans.

The win, with goals by Salvatore Schillaci and Roberto Baggio, maintained Italy's record here of being unbeaten in regulation time and sealed the nation's favourite argument that, but for the cruel quirk of penalty shoot-outs, they should have been champions for a record fourth time.

"We feel a bit tricked by fate to tell the truth," said Vicini whose side lost to Argentina on penalty kicks. "But we have nothing to reproach ourselves for and I am proud of my team."

Vicini paid tribute to England, who equalised through a David Platt header in the 81st minute but then saw Italy take the lead again five minutes later when Schillaci scored from a penalty.

"They are a superb side," said Vicini. "They have learned how to add precision and imagination to the typical British game."

Cup stars

Several young players emerged as new stars, the reputation of a few took huge dents and Roger Milla returned to the world stage from a sleepy island to create some of the World Cup's most memorable moments.

The 38-year-old Cameroon striker was recalled to national team duty after he had been playing soccer for fun at the island of Reunion.

A veteran of Cameroon's 1982 World Cup squad, Milla usually sat on the bench during the first half, but then came into the game to create and score goals that made Cameroon the first African nation to reach the World Cup quarterfinals.

Milla ended the tournament with four goals, all the result of the cunning of a born scorer.

And what happened to Marco van Basten, Europe's Player of the Year the last two seasons?

The Dutch striker was supposed to be the big star of the 1990 World Cup. But just like his team,



Italy's and England's soccer team players wave to the crowd. (Reuter wirephoto)

Van Basten seemed to be in a hurry to get to the beach and his contribution to the World Cup was zero goals.

Van Basten's Dutch team-mate Ruud Gullit had a slightly better time but he also had a valid excuse — nearly a year out with a knee injury and it was a miracle that he was at the World Cup at all. Gullit at least scored one goal.

Frank Rijkaard, another of the Dutch super trio from the side that won the European championship in 1988 in impressive style, will be mostly remembered for spitting at West German striker Rudi Voeller — one of the ugliest incidents of the tournament.

Several other top-rated strikers also flopped. The Austrian pair of Gerhard Rodax and Toni Polster, who combined for about 70 League goals this season, ended with one between them in the World Cup.

Tomas Skuhravy's five goals were impressive enough to find him a new job and let him remain in Italy. The Czechoslovak will leave Prague and move to Italian First Division club Genoa next season.

Enzo Scifo may also return to Italy after emerging as one of the most influential European midfielders. In Mexico four years ago, Scifo was often criticised for being too selfish. This time he played for the team, but ironically, Belgium was knocked out in the second round, after reaching the semifinals in Mexico.

Des Walker was one of the World Cup's most solid defenders and Paul "Gazza" Gascoigne showed that England may finally have a creative midfielder of true world class, albeit on the stocky

side.

Security drive

A senior British police officer yesterday hailed Italy's success in limiting trouble from England's notorious hooligans at the World Cup and said it could help English clubs return to European soccer.

Malcolm George, head of an English undercover police unit involved in Italy's massive security operation, said the drive had averted major incidents of violence.

"The whole operation right from the beginning of June has been a tremendous success," said George, the assistant police chief for the Greater Manchester region of northwest England.

"The success of this could well influence English football going into Europe," he said.

"Hooliganism is still there but it can be managed and contained

and in the long run removed from football," he added.

The European Football Union (Uefa) will decide next week whether to readmit English clubs to European tournaments. They have been banned since 39 people were killed when Liverpool fans rioted at the 1985 European Cup final against Juventus of Italy.

Fair play

In a World Cup where fair play reigned most of the way, suspensions and a record number of yellow and red cards tainted many matches, including the final.

The injured parties sometimes claimed the refereeing was biased, and many World Cup matches again showed the human failings of the men in black.

The World Cup opened with two expulsions, when Cameroon constantly ran the Argentine attack into the ground with fouls

to cause a stunning 1-0 upset.

The final was played without three Argentine mainstays, including star striker Claudio Caniggia, because of suspensions, making the match against West Germany anything but a battle on equal terms.

Argentina slammed

Former Argentine coach Cesar Menotti today castigated Argentina for failing in defence and turning their back on fair play in attack.

"I can't understand a team that is trained to defend and has four or five goal chances a match created against it," said Menotti, an outspoken critic of manager Carlos Bilardo's style of play. "This team failed in defence."

Menotti, coach of Argentina's first World Cup-winning team in 1978, said in an interview. Menotti, whose national sides had a reputation for exciting, attacking football, has accused Bilardo of betraying the traditional South American game through an obsession with tactics, set pieces and man-to-man marking.

British fans

Four British soccer fans were given suspended four-month sentences after a scuffle in a bar in a small Italian coastal town, court officials said.

The fans, three from England and one from Scotland, were charged with causing an affray, resisting arrest, assaulting a police officer and damaging property.

Police said the four were involved in an argument at a bar in the resort of Tivina 15 km (8 miles) southwest of Pisa, during which tables were overturned.

Fastest goal

Safet Susic of Yugoslavia scored the fastest goal of the 1990 World Cup tournament.

Susic, a veteran midfielder, tallied 3 minutes, 58 seconds into the first-round match against United Arab Emirates. The Yugoslavs won 4-1.

His header from seven metres came after a cross from the right.

Cup stamps

A special issue stamp honouring the World Cup winner will go on sale tomorrow at 10 am — about 12 hours after the final match.

The 600-lire commemorative stamp will be sold initially at the conference hall of Rome's Termini main railway depot, postal officials said.

2nd last event

Italian World Cup team members met today with the nation's President, Francesco Cossiga, at his official residence.

The appointment was their second-last of the championship, in which they finished third.

The Italians also had to face the press one last time before being released from their 64-day tour of duty.

Roman turf

West German soccer fans have been targeted as likely customers for souvenir pieces of Roman turf from the World Cup final.

Italy's defeat in the semifinals dealt a blow to plan to market the Olympic Stadium pitch in the host country.

But project co-ordinator Francesco Moneta said Germans may be just as interested since their team reached today's final against Argentina.

ROME, July 8, (Reuters): Goalscorers in the World Cup finals before today's final:

6 — Salvatore Schillaci (Italy)

5 — Tomas Skuhravy (Czechoslovakia)

4 — Michel (Spain), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Lothar Matthaus (West Germany), Gary Lineker (England)

3 — Rudi Voeller (West Germany), Juergen Klinsmann (West Germany), David Platt (England)

2 — Marius Lacatus (Romania), Careca (Brazil), Davor Josic (Yugoslavia), Michal Bilek (Czechoslovakia), Gavril Balint (Romania), Darko Pancev (Yugoslavia), Muller (Brazil), Bernardo Redin (Colombia), Dragan Stojkovic (Yugoslavia), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Andreas Brenne (West Germany), Roberto Baggio (Italy)

1 — Francisco Oman Biyik (Cameroon), Carlos Valderrama (Colombia), Ivan Hasek (Czechoslovakia), Milan Luhovy (Czechoslovakia), Paul Caligiuri (US), Tomas Brodin (Sweden), Juan Cayasso (Costa Rica), Kevin Sheedy (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Michel de Wolf (Belgium), Wim Kieft (Netherlands), Magdi Abdel-Ghani (Egypt), Pedro Trogic (Argentina), Jorge Burruchaga (Argentina), Giuseppe Giannini (Italy), Uwe Bein (West Germany), Khalid Ismail (United Arab Emirates), Stuart McCall (Scotland), Mo Johnston (Scotland), Glenn Strömberg (Sweden), Hwangbo Kwan (South Korea), Leo Clusters (Belgium), Enzo Scifo (Belgium), Jan Ceulemans (Belgium), Pablo Bengoechea (Uruguay), Oleg Protasov (Soviet Union), Andrei Zygmantovich (Soviet Union), Alexander Zavarov (Soviet Union), Igor Dobrovolsky (Soviet Union), Pedro Monzon (Argentina), Pierre Littbarski (West Germany), Freddy Rincon (Colombia), Safet Susic (Yugoslavia), Jan Ceulemans (Belgium), Ali Tiam Juma (United Arab Emirates), Gerhard Rodax (Austria), Andreas Orsini (Austria), Bruce Murray (US), Roger Flores (Costa Rica), Hernan Medford (Costa Rica), Johnny Ekström (Sweden), Alberto Gorzic (Spain), Patrick Vervoort (Belgium), Daniel Fonseca (Uruguay), Niall Quinn (Ireland), Ruud Gullit (Netherlands), Mark Wright (England), Lubor Kubik (Czechoslovakia), Ronald Gonzalez (Costa Rica), Ronald Koeman (Netherlands), Aldo Serena (Italy), Julio Salinas (Spain), Emmanuel Kuade (Cameroon), Eugene Ekeke (Cameroon).



Shilton walks off the field after his last game on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shilton announces retirement

BARI, July 8, (Reuters): England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who holds the world record for caps, retired from international soccer after his team's World Cup defeat in the third place playoff yesterday.

"There are three or four good young goalkeepers coming along and it is time now for them to have their chance," said Shilton, at 40 the oldest player in the World Cup finals.

Shilton, who made his 125th appearance for England in yesterday's 2-1 loss to Italy, said he would continue playing for his English club Derby County for at least another two years.

"I love playing football and while I can continue playing at the top I will do so," he said.

Shilton said his decision had been made before the World Cup finals where England have had their best showing for 24 years.

"It would have been a dream come true to win the tournament but even if we had I would have made the same decision because the time is right now," said Shilton.

England manager Bobby Robson, who is also leaving the side to go to Dutch club PSV Eindhoven, paid tribute to his goalkeeper, who was made captain for the night on Saturday in the absence of the injured Bryan Robson and his usual stand-in Terry Butcher.

"He is one of the greatest goalkeepers we have ever seen and for me I've not seen a better goalkeeper in this tournament than Peter Shilton," said Robson.

The manager, who has had an often stormy relationship with the media, added with a smile: "It is nice for me that he felt he should go at the same

time but I don't expect we will both be missed."

Robson revealed that the peak of his 95 matches in charge was the semifinal against West Germany in Turin, Wednesday.

"It was the most important game in our country for 24 years and the way we played it, it was the best game we have played for 24 years," he said.

He said that apart from West Germany, Italy was "one of the most impressive teams," in the competition, and that it might well have won had it not been for "one dodgy 45 minutes" against Argentina.

"But I wonder if they had the firepower up front to win it, although in Salvatore Schillaci they found a little hero."

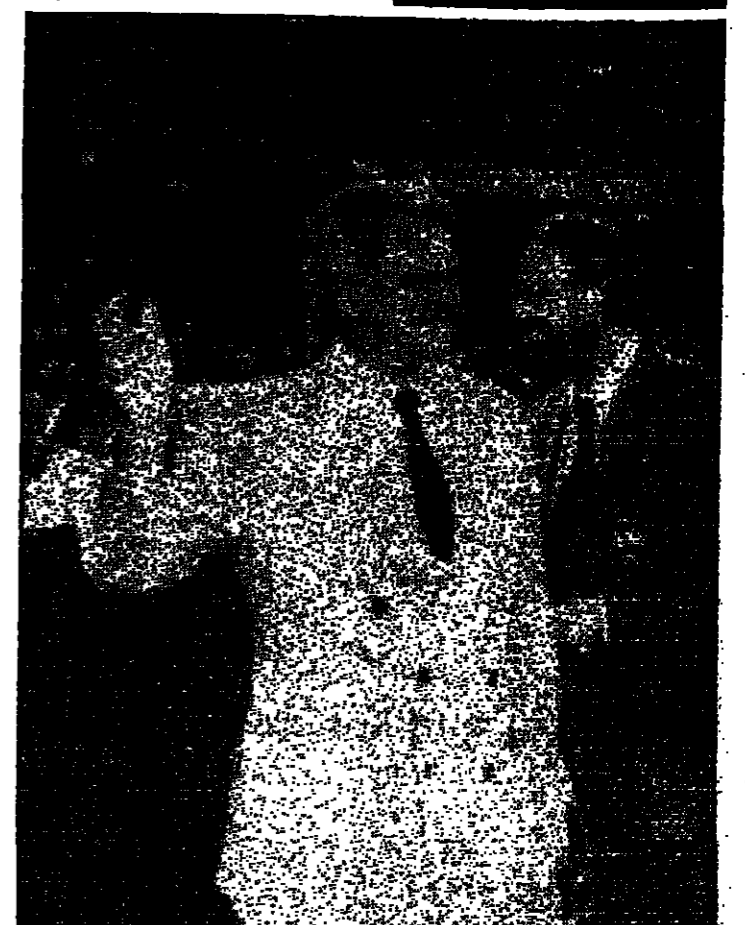
During the month-long finals, Shilton passed Northern Irish goalkeeper Pat Jennings's record of 119 international appearances but saw a record of his own — for keeping a clean sheet for 501 minutes during the later stages of the 1982 World Cup and the early part of the 1986 event — fall to Italy's Walter Zenga.

Unfortunately, his last appearance for England was marred by an error which led to Italy's opening goal.

Shilton was unaware that striker Roberto Baggio was lurking behind him as he casually cleared a back pass. The Italian raced in to rob the keeper and, after a one-two with Salvatore Schillaci, scored as Shilton was left stranded out of goal.

"Like everything over my career I suppose I will be blamed for that," Shilton said.

"All the same I like to think that I made one or two saves in the game that helped the team as well. I hope it won't be looked on too badly."



Robson acknowledges the applause of the public at the end of the game.

الكرة العالمية

Britain beat New Zealand in 2nd Test

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 8. (Reuters): Britain beat New Zealand 16-14 in a hard-fought rugby league Test in Auckland today to take a 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

The tourists held off sustained pressure to sneak in three tries against the run of play. New Zealand scored one try.

The match produced a personal victory for British left wing Martin Offiah, who scored his first try of the tour after being denied one against the New Zealand Maoris last Sunday.

All Black defender Matthew Ridge made a dream debut for the home side. The full back, who switched to Sydney club Manly in May, kicked five penalties and was denied two more and a conversion only by strong cross winds.

New Zealand dominated both possession and the penalty count in the first half but squandered several chances despite running some good forward drives and moving the ball out.

By half-time the score was 6-6. Ridge had notched up three penalties, and British stand-off Gary Schofield a try which Jonathan Davies converted.

New Zealand maintained the pressure in the second half but were often caught flat-footed. Second row Denis Betts and Offiah were also quick to exploit inept tackling.

Britain won the first Test 11-10 at Palmerston North two weeks ago. The final Test will be in Christchurch next Sunday.

Thrashed

Australia scored its biggest-ever rugby union Test match victory today when it thrashed the United States 67-9 at Brisbane's Ballymore ground.

From Michael Lynagh's opening try after two minutes, the visitors had no answer to Australia's power and pace.

Lynagh went on to equal his personal Test best with 24 points from two tries and eight conversions as Australia revelled in a morale-boosting romp to set themselves up for their New Zealand tour which starts next week.

Australia led 32-3 at half time and the only US try was scored by forward Bill Leyersee in the 73rd minute with Australia ahead 61-3.

Australia's previous highest Test score was its 65-18 demolition of South Korea on the same ground in 1987.

Brett Ili became the fifth top New Zealand rugby union player to switch to rugby league this season when he was lured to English club Bradford Northern yesterday.

Ili, who played for the Maori All Blacks and for champion province Auckland, ended a week of rumours when he signed a three-year contract which press reports valued at 450,000 dollars (\$265,500).

The talented player, who was only a reserve at this year's trials for the All Blacks proper, said he was frustrated at being left out in the cold for so long.

Ili had been viewed as a possible replacement for scrumhalf Graeme Bachop in the All Blacks' upcoming three-Test series against Australia, but coach Alex Wyllie has indicated he would be unwilling to tamper with his successful line-up.

"My ambition was to get an All Blacks trial. But to just be a reserve... anyone can be reserve," Ili said.

The world champion All Blacks have not lost a game since 1986 and this season won a two-Test series against a gutsy Scotland touring side.

Already this season, New Zealand rugby union has lost All Blacks fullback John Gallagher, second five John Schuster and second stringers Matthew Ridge and Frano Botica.

England strengthen hold on 3rd Test

Hemmings scuttles Kiwis

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): Veteran off-spinner Eddie Hemmings took five wickets in a Test innings for the first time yesterday as England strengthened their hold on the third cricket Test.

Hemmings, 41, finished with six for 58 in New Zealand's first innings 249 in reply to England's 435 on the third day of the final Test.

New Zealand, resuming at nine

for no wicket, were always struggling after skipper John Wright was caught behind for 24 off fast bowler Devon Malcolm in the morning session.

Andrew Jones scored only two before he went to a catch to wicketkeeper Jack Russell trying an ambitious hook shot outside the off stump to Malcolm.

Martin Crowe also disappointed, scoring a scratchy 11 before

playing across a straight delivery from Chris Lewis.

Trevor Franklin and Mark Greatbatch then rescued the innings with a fourth-wicket partnership of 71, highlighted by some spanking drives from Greatbatch.

The left-hander hit four boundaries in his first 20 runs and raced to 45, at which stage he played a loose drive at Malcolm and was clean bowled.

Greatbatch's departure allowed Hemmings, who has never taken more than three wickets in an innings in his 12 Tests, to come into his own.

First he induced Franklin to pop a delivery to Robin Smith at mid-off after the tall New Zealand opener had scored an invaluable 66.

He then captured the wickets of Richard Hadlee (eight), John Bracewell (25), Kent Rutherford (29), Martin Snedden (two) and Danny Morrison (one) as New Zealand struggled past the follow-on mark.

Play resumes tomorrow after today's rest day with England striving for their first victory in a home series since 1985.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 435 (G. Gooch 154, M. Atherton 82)
NEW ZEALAND first innings (over-
night nine for no wicket)
T. Franklin c Smith b Hemmings... 66
J. Wright c Russell b Malcolm... 24
A. Jones c Russell b Malcolm... 12
M. Crowe lbw b Lewis... 11
M. Greatbatch b Malcolm... 45
K. Rutherford c Stewart b Hemmings... 29
R. Hadlee c Atherton b Hemmings... 8
J. Bracewell b Hemmings... 25
A. Feroze not out... 12
M. Snedden lbw b Hemmings... 2
D. Morrison b Hemmings... 1
Extras (b-9 lb-11 w-2 nb-2)... 24
Total... 249

Fall of wickets: 1-45 2-67 3-90 4-161
5-163 6-185 7-223 8-230 9-243.
Bowling: Small 18-7-44-0, Malcolm 25-7-59-3, Lewis 19-5-51-1, Hemmings 27-3-1058-8, Atherton 9-5-17-0.



Hadlee (left) turns to see he has been caught by Mike Atherton off Hemmings. (Reuters wirephoto)

Benson slams India for 90

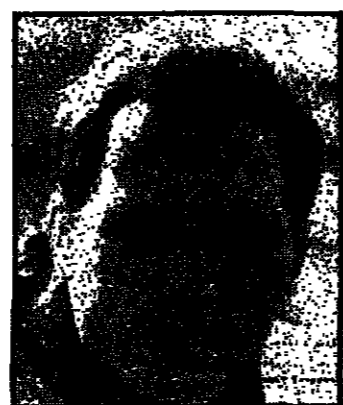
CANTERBURY, England, July 8. (Reuters): Opener Mark Benson, pressing for a test recall, fell 10 short of a third consecutive century yesterday on the day of Kent's three-day cricket match against India.

The left-hander, who turned 32 on Friday, was bowled by leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani for 90 in Kent's imposing first innings 257 for two at the close.

Benson has been in prime form this season and may well add to his solitary Test cap won against the last Indian tourists four years ago.

Each of the top four Kent batsmen enjoyed themselves at the Indian bowlers' expensive after Chris Cowdrey had won the toss and elected to bat.

Simon Hinks scored 62 in a first wicket stand of 126 while



Mark Benson
Neil Taylor (58) and Graham Cowdrey (24) were both unbeaten at the close.
There was little encouragement for the Indian

bowlers on an easy-paced pitch.

Left-arm spinner Venkat Raju picked up the wicket of Hinks in bowling 12 overs for 25 runs in his first spell and Kapil Dev had a good second spell of six overs, four of them maidens, for just five runs.

Scoreboard

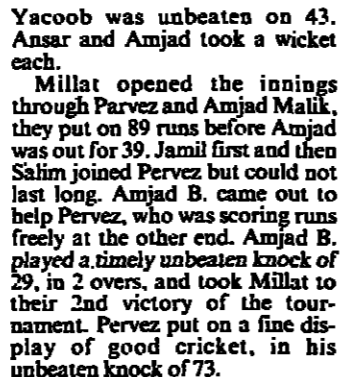
Kent first innings
S. Hinks b Raju... 62
M. Benson b Hirwani... 90
N. Taylor not out... 58
G. Cowdrey not out... 24
Extras (b-7 lb-7 nb-9)... 23
Total (for two wickets)... 257
Fall of wickets: 1-126 2-196
To bat: C. Cowdrey (capt), M. Fleming, S. Marsh, R. Ellison, C. Penn, T. Merrick, R. Davis.
India: R. Shastri (capt), M. Prabhakar, S. Manjrekar, D. Vengsarkar, S. Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, K. More, V. Raju, S. Sharma, A. Wassan, N. Harwani.

Millat triumph easily

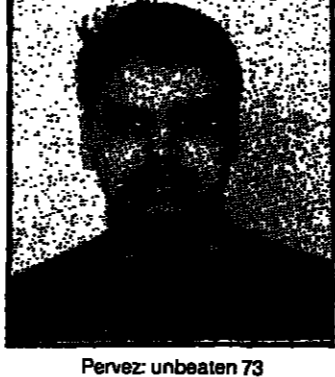
MILLAT Cricket Club beat Bombay Youth by 7 wickets in Ramli Summer Tournament match at the Ramli ground on Friday.

Zahid Butt of Bombay Youth won the toss and elected to bat. Zahid opened the innings but could not manage score more than 23 runs despite a dropped catch before he was bowled by Amjad Bashir.

Ghulam Haider and Yacoob helped Bombay Youth put on a respectable score of 160 for 3 wickets in 25 overs. Haider hit a fine knock of 81 (not out) while



Pervez: unbeaten 73



Pervez: unbeaten 73

Hill retains WBA crown

BISMARCK, North Dakota, July 8. (Reuters): Virgil Hill jabbed his way to his ninth successful defence of the World Boxing Association light heavyweight title, scoring a unanimous 12-round points decision over fellow-American Tyrone Frazier yesterday.

Hill appeared able to land his left jab almost at will throughout the fight, prompting Frazier to say afterward:

"I've never seen a left jab like that."

Frazier, the nephew of former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, added: "He can have the light heavyweight division. I'm going down to middleweight where it's safe."

There were no knockdowns in the fight, which drew about 8,000 people in Hill's hometown. Hill, who dominated the fight from the beginning, staggered Frazier in the second round with a right-left combination and knocked the challenger into the ropes as the final bell sounded.

Ikangaa wins

TOKYO, July 8. (Reuters): Tanzania's Juma Ikangaa won the men's Sapporo half marathon today, while Lisa Weidenbach of the United States triumphed in the women's event.

The 29-year-old Ikangaa ran the 21.0975-km course through the northern Japanese city of Sapporo in one hour, three minutes 56 seconds, ahead of Japanese runners Keito Fujino in 1:04.23 and Toshiaki Kurabayashi in 1:04.53.

Kingery and Carter help Giants outlast Cubs

SAN FRANCISCO, July 8. (AP): Mike Kingery hit a two-run single in the ninth inning and the San Francisco Giants, with Gary Carter going 5-for-5, seasawed past the visiting Chicago Cubs 10-9 yesterday in a National League baseball game.

Carter homered and drove in

four runs with the second five-hit game of his career. Matt Williams, who also homered, and Carter singled with one out in the ninth against Les Lancaster (7-5). After a wild pitch, Kingery singled to left field.

The Cubs took a 9-8 lead in the ninth on Dave Clark's sacrifice

fly off Jeff Brantley (3-1). Brett Butler's two-run homer in the eighth lifted the Giants into a tie at 8. It was his second home run of the season and first since April 15.

Blue Jays 4, Mariners 2

George Bell drove in three runs while Jimmy Key and

Duane Ward combined on a three-hitter as Toronto beat Seattle for its fifth straight victory.

Key (5-4) gave up three hits, including Jeffrey Leonard's two-run homer in the first, in seven innings. Ward believed for his seventh save.



Carter (left) is welcomed into the dugout after hitting a homer. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mariners' Harold Reynolds tag is late on Blue Jays' Ken Williams. (Reuters wirephoto)

Royals 4, Tigers 0
Rookie Kevin Appier pitched a one-hitter and Kurt Stillwell, keyed a three-run third inning with a two-run single as Kansas City beat Detroit, repaying the Tigers for Jack Morris' one-hitter Friday night.

Appier (4-3), making his ninth start since moving into the rotation May 27, gave up only a leadoff single to Lou Whitaker, who hit a clean liner to left. Appier struck out six and walked four in the first complete game and shutout of his Major-League career.

Detroit's Frank Tanana (5-6) gave up three runs on three hits and three walks in 2 1-3 innings.

Results

National League		
San Francisco	10	Chicago Cubs 9
Cincinnati	5	Philadelphia 0
Atlanta	4	N.Y. Mets 3
Montreal	3	Houston 1
San Diego	3	St. Louis 1
Los Angeles	4	Pittsburgh 2
American League		
Toronto	1	Seattle 2
N.Y. Yankees	5	Minnesota 0
Cleveland	1	Oakland 0
Kansas City	4	Detroit 0
Baltimore	4	Chicago W.S. 1
California	4	Milwaukee 3
Texas	7	Boston 4



The Kuwait International Hotel team.

KIH outplay NIC

KHC-Bayan set records

THE Trico/KPBL '90 2nd-Conference All Filipino Men's Basketball League continued with its elimination round schedules on Friday at the Kaifan Secondary High School Gymnasium.

KIH 89 NIC 80

Kuwait International Hotel registered win No. 1 with an 89-80 victory over the hard-fighting NIC squad. It was a sorry loss for the NIC 5 who were poised to win their 1st game in 3 outings as they led at half-time 36-34.

Molina, formerly with the EEI team, scored 22 points in the first half to single-handedly keep his team abreast of its opponent. However, in the next 20 minutes of play, he cooled off, missing shots when they mattered the most. KIH's Perez exploded for 22 2nd-half points to lead his team in its 1st Win in two outings.

Leading point makers for the winning team were Perez 31, Morales 21, Nacional 8, Cruz 6, and Rotolo 6.

The NIC team was once again led by Molina with 32, Miguel 15, Milanes 8, Malacay 8 and Villanueva 7.

The Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game was KIH's Ruel Perez.

Regency 83 Kirby 69

In the 2nd match of the day, Kuwait Regency Palace steamed past the Kirby Building Systems quintet 83-69 to post their 2nd win in 3 starts. Half-time tally was 44-30 in favour of KRP as the trio of Liganay, Pizarro and Matudio broke the Kirby defenses.

Things were very much the same in the next 20 minutes of play, and when the final buzzer sounded, it was KRP by 14 points.

Top scorers for KRP were Liganay 30, Pizarro 21, Matudio 10, Ramirez 7 and Borrue 6.

In its 3rd loss in as many outings, Kirby were led by Delegracia 30, Garcia 17, Vidallo 12, & Geronimo 9.

Bong Liganay (formerly with the KDD team) was named as the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game.

KPBC 138, Mabuhay 63

KPBC/Greek House celebrated the return of their prized centre-Edwin Castro by bombing the Mabuhay-Kamay quintet 138-63. Half-time score was 58-31 in favour of the winners who played inspired basketball with their new set of violet-white-red uniforms.

The game was another mismatch right from the start as KPBC Greek House, recovering from a slump stood head and shoulders above the undermanned Mabuhay-Kamay squad.

The "Macho-Man from Adan" Edwin Castro made his presence felt by controlling both sides of the boards, swatting several shots and scoring 21 points.

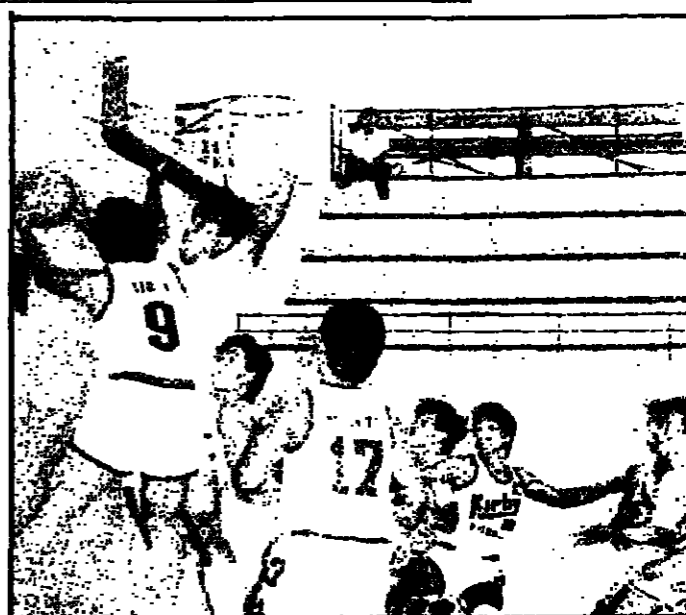
In its 3rd win in 3 games, KPBC/Greek House were led by Zalavarría 22, Castro 21, Serrano 20, Manuel L. 17, De la Cruz L. 16, Domingo 11, Bustria 10, and Vargas 6.

Manuhay-Kamay now with a 1-2 win loss slate were led by Abad 24, Go 9, Gonzaga 8, Pinto 6, De la Cruz 6.

The Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game was KPBC/Greek House's Tony Zalavarría (formerly with EEI team).

AI Widad/Capcom 99, Kalexico 70

In the 4th match of the day AI Widad/Capcom trounced Kalexico 99-70 to register win No. 2 in 3 starts, half-time tally was 58-32 in favour of the winners.



An action shot of the Kirby-KRP game.



The KPBC-Greek House players.

tally was 44-44 with no team having a clear advantage over the other. The same was true in the next 20 minutes of play. Though Trend Wave was able to control the tempo of the ballgame, they had their hands full in Pizza Italia guards Alojado and De La Cruz who combined well to put Pizza Italia on top 79-77 with time down to 1 minute 54 seconds. In the ensuing play Trend Wave equalized the count at 79-77 with time down to 1 minute 54 seconds. In the ensuing play Trend Wave equalized the count at 79-79 with time down to less than a minute. Pizza Italia was unable to make a basket in several attempts, and when Trend Wave got possession, Abajero drove in for a 3 point play off a foul by Pizza Italia's Alojado (5th foul) for the marginal points.

Trend Wave now with a 1 win/1 loss slate were paced by Abajero 28, Samson 21, Saldun 17, & Espinosa 10.

Pizza Italia also with a 1 win/1 loss card were led by Alojado 24, De La Cruz 20, Hufano 17, & Fantaigo 12.

Edison Abajero (formerly of the Nissan Al Bahrain team) was chosen as the Durrani Int'l Best Player of the Game.

In the Open/Expatriates' Men's Darts Team Competition, SAS Hotel beat Mabuhay Restaurant 5-2. D'Bug routed KHC-Bayan 7-0 and AI Wayne outlasted Kamay 5-2. After 4 rounds, D'Bug & SAS Hotel are tied with 18 points each, followed by Mabuhay Restaurant 13, Anak Restaurant 11, AI Wayne 10, Kamay 10, & KHC-Bayan 4.

"KPBL meeting"

A KPBL meeting is set for Monday, July 9, 1990 7:30 pm at the Mabuhay Restaurant. All officers and team representatives should attend the said meeting.

Trend Wave 82, Pizza Italia 79

Trend Wave scored the 1st upset win of the 2nd-conference with a down the wire heart stopping 82-79 decision of highly-favoured Pizza Italia. Half-time



The Regency Palace squad.

Delighted Navratilova thanks mentor Billie Jean

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): Martina Navratilova, basking in the glory of her record-breaking ninth Wimbledon singles title, says she owes much of her success to Billie Jean King.

The Czechoslovak-born American is keen to pay tribute to her mentor who, she says, have played a major part in helping her break the record held by Helen Wills Moody for 52 years.

After easily defeating fifth seeded

American Zina Garrison 6-4 6-1 in the final yesterday, Navratilova raced exuberantly into the stands to embrace her coaches and friends.

"It was a very special moment that I wanted to share with the people that had been with me every step of the way," said Navratilova, the second seed, who hugged her coach Craig Kardon, her mentor King, and her companion Judy Nelson.

In particular, she cited King, herself the

winner of a record 20 Wimbledon titles in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, as playing a leading role in developing Navratilova's mental strength.

"Billie Jean is one of the best tennis minds out there," Navratilova said. "She worked on all aspects of my game, but mainly the mental part, and that's what paid off."

"I always had the physical ability, but in the final I didn't let the occasion overwhelm me."

The match was the most important triumph

of her career.

"This tops it all," she said.

"I knew this was my best chance so I really wanted to grab it. I worked so long and hard for it and they say good things are worth waiting for and this one definitely was."

Navratilova is amazed that, at 33, she continues to win at Wimbledon and recalled her modest ambitions at the start of her winning streak.

"I just wanted to win it once," she said.

Edberg takes Wimbledon title

Swede beats off Becker fight-back



Edberg, takes away Becker's crown

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): Stefan Edberg won the Wimbledon men's singles title for the second time today, starting defeat in the face before beating off a determined fight-back by defending champion Boris Becker.

The 24-year-old Swede was 3-1 down in the final set but then broke the West German twice to win a glorious battle 6-2 6-3 6-6 6-4 in two minutes under three hours.

For two sets Edberg tormented the West German with slow-balling tactics that the 22-year-old Becker, seeking his fourth title in six years, could not come to grips with.

Bemused

Edberg hit soft, low returns which Becker invariably volleyed into the net or out of court. After two sets he looked thoroughly bemused.

It was reminiscent of the 1975 final when American Arthur Ashe used the same ploy to defeat defending champion Jimmy Connors of the United States to capture the title against all the odds.

But Edberg, who lost to Becker in three sets in last year's final after beating him in the 1988 final, could not sustain his brilliance and the West German clawed his way back into the match.

When he drew level after four sets, the tide had swung his way.

"Once he had broken Edberg to lead 3-1 in the final set the Wimbledon crown seemed certain to remain on his head. But Edberg, helped by some wayward volleying from the German, immediately broke back.

Then at 4-4 he broke Becker again with a devastating backhand lob to the corner that his opponent could only stand and watch.

Serving for the match Edberg got to 40-15 and two championship points. Becker saved the first with a service return but Edberg's next serve shot high into the air off the frame of Becker's racket to drop wide of the sideline and give the Swede the match.

After raising his arms in triumph Edberg stripped off his shirt and hurled it into the crowd.

It was the first time for almost 100 years that the same two men had played the final three years in a row. Wilfred Baddeley of Britain and Joshua Pim of Ireland met in four successive finals from 1891 to 1894.

Becker, who became the youngest champion and the first unseeded winner when he won for the first time in 1985 at the age of 17, collected his second title in 1986



Becker: falls and loses his crown. (Reuters wirephoto)

E. European first on 8th Tour stage

BESANCON, France, July 8. (Reuters): Olympic road champion Olaf Ludwig of East Germany today became the first East European to win a stage in the Tour de France in a sprint finish to the 181.5-km eighth stage in Besancon.

Ludwig, who has been in the top five in all the sprint finishes during the first week of the Tour, managed to hold off Belgian Johan Museeuw and American Ron Kiefel on the finish line.

The powerful sprinter from Gera, in his first professional season after winning almost every title in his 10-year amateur career, said: "It is a dream come true."

"Only last year it would have seemed unbelievable just to start the Tour," added the 30-year-old, who was released by his federation to turn pro last year.

Poland's Lech Piatecki was the first cyclist from the Eastern bloc to shine in the Tour when in 1987 he symbolically took the leader's yellow jersey by the Berlin Wall without winning a stage.

Canada's Steve Bauer finished in the bunch, 21 seconds behind, to retain his overall leader's yellow jersey.

Bauer, who has a slim 17-second edge over second-placed Ronan Pensec of France, said: "Things went well today, but I start to feel the pressure of wearing the jersey as we are heading towards the Alps."

Ludwig, the best known of four East German riders competing for the first time in the three-week long Tour, launched his decisive move 50 metres from the line after a first attack by Frenchman Bruno Cornillet.

They were among 13 riders who broke away four kms from the finish line and who clocked the same time of four hours 26 minutes and 53 seconds.

"I wanted it real bad. It is more than I had hoped for. Now I can relax and just try to finish the Tour," said Ludwig.

England return home to heroes' welcome

LUTON, England, July 8. (Reuters): England's World Cup squad returned home today to a heroes' welcome and the news that their clubs might soon be back in European competitions.

Ten thousand fans, ignoring the team's defeat by Italy in the third-place playoff on Saturday night, gathered at Luton airport, north of London, to see the team arrive.

Many thousand more, waving flags and banners, sat on car roofs and climbed up lamp posts for a glimpse of the team as they passed by in an open-top double-decker bus for a tour of the town.

"You done us proud," one banner pro-

claimed, while many fans sported T-shirts with the message: "Heroes everyone. England pride restored. Italy 1990."

Press reports said English clubs, barred from European soccer competitions since 1985, might be allowed back next season.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper, quoting senior government sources, said Sports Minister Colin Moynihan would this week recommend to Uefa that English clubs be allowed back on a trial basis.

Moynihan declined to comment on the reports, saying only that his report to Uefa was not yet complete.

Uefa, which has already said it would be guided by the Moynihan's recommendation,

is due to make its decision at a meeting in Geneva on Tuesday.

The minister said before the World Cup finals began that the behaviour of English fans in Italy would decide whether the government would recommend the return of English clubs.

The good behaviour of the majority of English fans in Italy — and the success of the English team on the pitch — may have made up the British government's mind.

England finished top of their group in the first round and went on to beat Belgium and Cameroon before being knocked out by West Germany in a penalty shoot-out in their semifinal last Wednesday.

Prost wins French GP to reduce Senna's lead

LE CASTELLET, France, July 8. (Reuters): French world champion Alain Prost claimed Ferrari's 100th victory in Formula One motor racing today when he drove to a perfectly-judged triumph at the French Grand Prix.

Winning his third race of the season since joining Ferrari and his second in succession, Prost also completed a hat-trick of personal victories on the Le Castellet circuit in southern France.

His win hoisted him up to second place in the World Drivers' Championships with 32 points, three behind leader Ayrton Senna of Brazil who finished third in a McLaren.

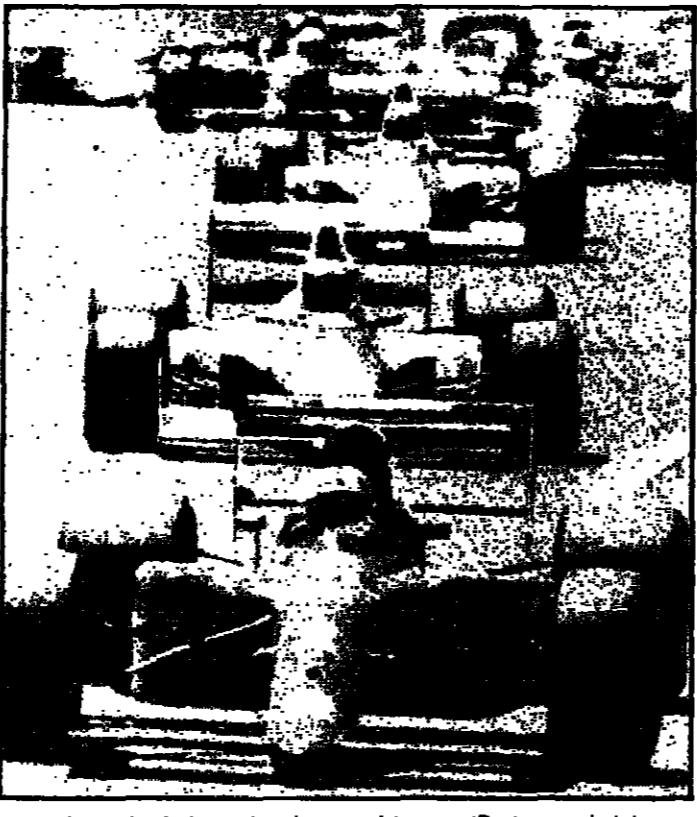
Prost, starting from fourth on the grid, timed his run to perfection and after following Italian Ivan Capelli's Leyton House for more than 40 laps took the lead on the 78th lap of the 80 lap race.

Prost finished in one hour 33 minutes and 29.606 seconds.

Capelli finished second ahead of Senna. Brazilian Nelson Piquet's Benetton, Austrian Gerhard Berger in the second McLaren and Italian Riccardo Patrese who was sixth in a Williams.

Briton Nigel Mansell who started from pole position did not finish but led briefly — one of the race's seven different leaders. His engine blew seven laps from the end but he had the satisfaction of clocking the fastest lap of the race in 1:08.012.

Prost's victory increased his



Mansell leads the pack at the start of the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

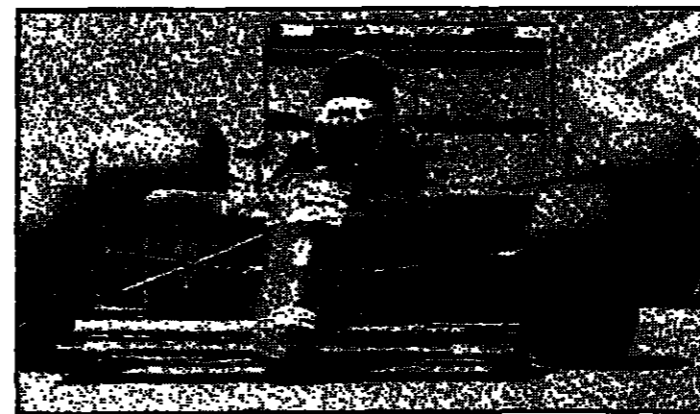
career record to 42 wins from 160 starts and kept the world championship race wide open.

Prost was delighted with his victory and paid a rich tribute to the Ferrari team for their hard work in the last two races.

"We (Ferrari) have now won

two races in succession and that is great for the motivation of the team and good for the serenity of the team," he said. "It is also good for the championship."

Prost said he felt very optimistic about the rest of the season, particularly as Ferrari have still



Prost in action during the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

to introduce their new V-12 engine, so far seen only in qualifying.

The Frenchman said he had great difficulties during the race in finding a way of overtaking and had particular problems in passing Capelli who led from the 33rd lap to the 78th.

"I had bad vibrations from my right rear tyre because I had a big blister," said Prost.

Capelli, who like his Leyton House team-mate Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin, had failed to qualify for the Mexican Grand Prix two weeks ago said his car had been perfectly set up for the race.

"My chief problem was with the engine which had a misfire and started cutting out on the last few laps," said Capelli. "In the end it was nearly not working at



West Germany's Rudolf Voeller leaps in the air to head the ball during West German attack against Argentina's Oscar Ruggeri in World Cup match. (Reuters wirephoto)

World Cup

(Continued from Page 1)

But they rarely looked in danger of going down to a third successive defeat in a match they dominated throughout.

With four players missing through suspension, including key striker Claudio Caniggia, Argentina relied on the stifling midfield play and tight defensive marking which had been their hallmark throughout the tournament.

West Germany put their emphasis on non-stop attack with Pierre Littbarski and Thomas Haessler buzzing persistently in midfield.

But they still found it difficult to break down the uncompromising Argentine defence and Goycochea had a relatively quiet evening in goal.

Voeller went close three times in a subdued first half and West Germany stepped up the pressure after the break with Littbarski, Thomas Berthold and Voeller all just off target.

"We knew we were the better team and we showed that today," West German team boss Franz Beckenbauer said. "It helped a bit that we were awarded the penalty but it wouldn't have been right for it to go to extra time."

"Great injustices like that shouldn't happen in football. Argentina barely came near our goal."

Monzon, a second half substitute, stayed on for only 20 minutes before a high tackle on Klinsmann sent the blond West German striker flying.

Codesal had no hesitation reaching immediately for his red card despite protests from the Argentine players.

By then, the champions had substituted defender Oscar Ruggeri and midfielder Jorge Burruchaga, both of whom had struggled with injuries throughout the competition.

He became the first to win the World Cup as both captain and coach, following West Germany's 1974 World Cup victory when he received the trophy in his home Olympic stadium in Munich.

The West German players hugged each other in celebration

at the final whistle, while many of the Argentine players cried as they left the field.

Argentina had been bidding to become the first team to repeat as champion since Brazil in 1962.

The resolute Argentine defence only lost its composure in the dying minutes.

The Germans whipped a lot of quick passes into the area in the first half, aimed at Klinsmann and Rudi Voeller.

Captain Lothar Matthaeus created two glorious opportunities for Voeller, but first he hesitated too long and the second time headed over the crossbar.

Midfielder Pierre Littbarski crashed a low drive narrowly wide and also chipped a shot over the bar.

Berthold also went close with a header and the West Germans had a penalty appeal turned down after goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea tangled with sweeper Klaus Augenthaler.

Goycochea also made a superb save to turn aside a low shot from Andreas Brehme.

But he could do nothing with the penalty.

"We knew we were the best," said Beckenbauer. "It would have been an injustice if the match had gone to extra time. The team was full of confidence."

The West Germans, who first won the World Cup in 1954, equalled Brazil and Italy's record of three trophies.

They were playing in their sixth final, another record, and their fifth out of the last seven, a tribute to their consistency and reputation as a tournament side.

Apart from hosts Italy, unluckily beaten by Argentina in a semifinal penalty shootout, as a pure footballing team they had no other equals in the competition and few could resent their victory.

Captain Matthaeus, who had marked Maradona in the 1986 final, was not at his dominant best in the match but his magnificent early performances for West Germany still left him as the player of the tournament.

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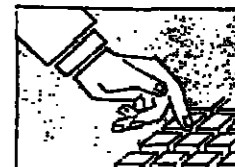
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